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AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK
ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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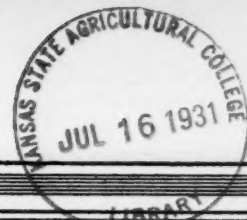
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Deer Problem on Kaibab National Forest

[To make a thorough study of the deer problem on the Kaibab National Forest in northern Arizona, and to formulate recommendations for a better system of management, the Kaibab Investigative Committee spent the week from June 8 to 15, 1931, traveling over the forest and observing conditions on the spot. The committee had the following make-up: Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, New York City, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies, chairman; George D. Pratt, New York City, representing the American Forestry Association and the American Game Association, vice-chairman; Mark Anderson, Provo, Utah, for the Isaac Walton League, secretary; Joseph S. Dixon, Berkeley, California, for the National Park Service; Dr. E. R. Hall, Berkeley, for the American Society of Mammalogists; K. C. Kartchner, Phoenix, for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission; J. M. Macfarlane, Salt Lake City, president of the Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Association, for the American National Live Stock Association and representing the live-stock interests generally; A. A. Nichol, Tucson, for the Arizona Protective Association; and Paul G. Redington, Washington, D. C., chief of the Biological Survey. Below we print Mr. Macfarlane's separate report to the American National Live Stock Association, as well as extracts from the general report of the committee, which is addressed to the chief of the Forest Service.]

REPORT OF J. M. MACFARLANE

THE NAME "KAIBAB" WAS GIVEN TO THIS region by Major Powell in 1870. The meaning of this Indian word is "a high mountain lying on its back in the desert." The Kaibab lies north of the Colorado River in northern Arizona, and was not accessible to the people south of the river until the bridge was built at Lees Ferry in 1929. Coronado discovered the Grand Canyon, near the Kaibab, in 1540, but the gorge was considered impassable at that time.

According to the earliest history, the Kaibab was first occupied by Jacob Hamblin, one of the Mormon pioneers and a missionary to the Indians in the beginning of the sixties. He bought the Houserock Valley

Springs from the Indians, and some of his descendants are still running cattle on the mountain. The people of Orderville, a near-by town, were the next to occupy this region. They put their cattle on the plateau, and there is still in existence the bill-of-sale for the water they bought from the Indians, with the chief's cross for his signature. This plateau and surrounding winter range have been used by the people



DEER ON KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST

of Orderville, Kanab, and Fredonia ever since the days of Hamblin, and have been their main summer range. In the early days only cattle were ranged, but later sheep were added.

Reading the story of the development of the cattle industry in any part of the West, one has the history of the pioneering in that section. It was by following the old cow in her quest for feed that most of the out-of-the-way places were discovered. If Coronado had had cattle with him when he came to the south

side of the Grand Canyon in 1540, he would have taken a bull by the tail and swum the river to the Kaibab Plateau.

The Grand Canyon National Game Preserve was created on November 28, 1906, and includes approximately the same area as the Kaibab National Forest. All killing of deer was prohibited, and government hunters were employed to kill mountain lions and coyotes. "Uncle" Jim Owens claims to have killed more than 600 lions from 1907 to 1919. Removal of natural enemies of the deer permitted them to increase up to the limit of their food supply, their numbers reaching the peak in 1924.

The Kaibab Plateau extends through the middle of the Kaibab National Forest. It resembles a peninsula extending out from the highlands of Utah into the lower lands of Arizona, and has an elevation of approximately 8,000 feet—at the highest point, 9,200 feet. The plateau is about 50 miles long from north to south, and from 15 to 20 miles wide from east to west. The southern 10 miles is within the Grand Canyon National Park, and the remainder within the Kaibab National Forest. The eastern edge of the plateau is marked by steep slopes and escarpments that drop away into the winter ranges of South Canyon and Houserock Valley to an elevation of perhaps 5,000 feet. On the western side the plateau slopes gradually toward Kanab Creek Canyon, the edge of which has an elevation of about 4,500 feet. This slope has numerous long canyons or draws, all extending westward. The areas known as the "sand rocks" below the rims of the big canyons have elevations of from 3,000 to 4,000 feet. This range unit has natural barriers on the east, south, and west sides. The canyon of the Colorado River bounds the east and south, the canyon of Kanab Creek is on the west, and Snake Gulch is on the northwest. These canyons have steep, perpendicular walls, and there is very little drift of deer across them. There is no natural barrier to the north, but deer do not drift that way in any material numbers—probably because there are long stretches without water, and because the general slope is to the north.

The area of the Game Preserve north of the Grand Canyon is 770,000 acres.

The Grand Canyon National Park was created by an act of Congress of February 26, 1919. This took an area of 300,000 acres from the national forest north of the Colorado River. In 1927 an additional area of 46,000 acres was taken from the Kaibab National Forest and added to the Grand Canyon National Park. The present area of the national park north of the Colorado River is approximately 346,000 acres, and of the Kaibab National Forest, 706,000 acres.

The Kaibab Plateau has no running streams,

although the winter snows are from three to eight feet deep. There are many sink-holes. When the openings of these sink-holes become clogged they form small lakes. There are many of these lakes, which supply water for deer and domestic stock in summer. There are springs on the fall and spring ranges, and the deer depend on snow for water in the winter. The snow lies on the north slopes till late spring, which enables the deer to graze the whole area.

Not until 1918 and 1919 was there any serious complaint of the deterioration of the range. The Forest Service report of domestic stock is as follows:

	Cattle	Sheep
1906	9,000	20,000
1907	8,000	10,000
1908	13,750	5,000
1909	14,000	7,500
1910	14,383	5,000
1911	14,471	5,000
1912	13,922	5,000
1913	15,210	5,000
1914	10,892	5,000
1915	8,313	5,000
1916	8,847	5,000
1917	9,625	5,000
1918	9,886	5,000
1919	10,991*	5,145
1920	10,095*	4,555
1921	7,404	4,375
1922	7,068	2,664
1923	7,106	3,566
1924	4,356	3,508
1925	3,019	1,155
1926	3,084	2,150
1927	1,078	2,405
1928	1,338	2,405
1929	2,803†	2,405
1930	1,904†	2,405

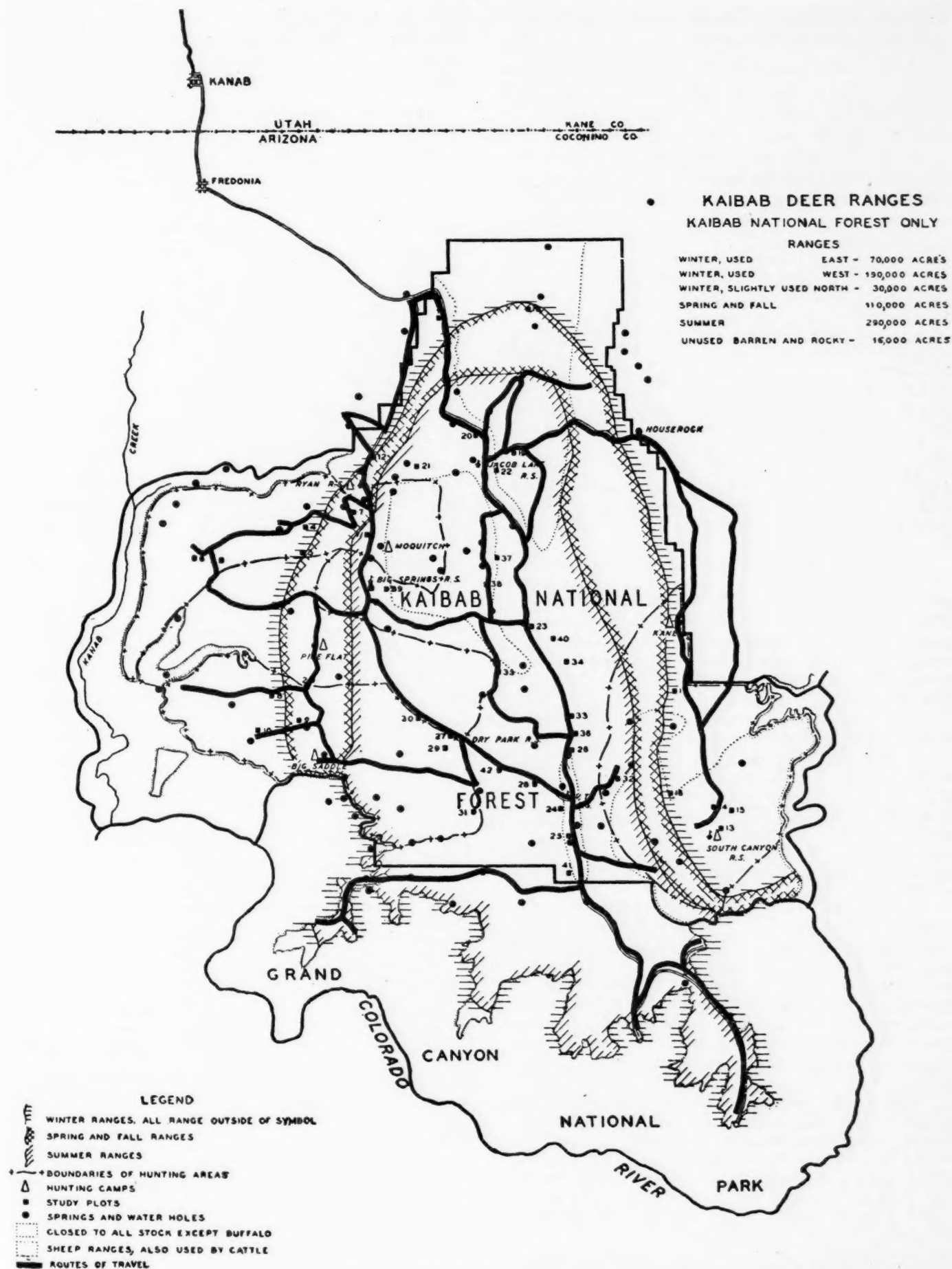
On the south and west parts of the range we find the most serious damage. On this range there are now only 680 permitted cattle, or about one cow to a square mile, but this area has most of the deer.

The Investigative Committee has this to say:

The depleted condition of the Kaibab range is due to overgrazing by both domestic stock and deer, but the cattle and sheep have been reduced to almost insignificant numbers, considering the area of the range. Cattle and horses are mainly grass-eaters when grass is available. Deer, on the other hand, prefer weeds and browse. There is, however, conflict in the use of forage as between cattle and deer when utilization is carried to the extreme. Cliff rose is one of the valuable and originally abundant browse species that has suffered greatly from a double use by both deer and cattle on the winter range of the Kaibab. It is desirable, therefore, as a measure of range restoration, to eliminate unauthorized cattle, as well as to reduce the deer to a point where these choice browse species will be able to recover. It is also apparent that, if overgrazing continues, the aspen forest type will ultimately disappear from the Kaibab Plateau. There is practically no aspen reproduction anywhere now. A very few yellow-pine seedlings are "getting away" out of reach of the deer. Conifer reproduction within the Kaibab, under present conditions, is virtually impossible. Practically all pine, spruce, and fir repro-

*Temporary increase in cattle because of the war.

†Temporary increase in cattle because of drought in Houserock Valley.



duction has developed a peculiar Kaibab form, due to repeated browsing of terminal buds by the deer.

It is a recognized fact that cattle do not eat conifer or aspen; so this damage must be charged to the deer. Aspen is one of the favorite browses for deer on the summer range. The committee failed to find a young aspen tree that the deer could get at, but it found plenty of them that had grown up while the range was chiefly used by cattle.

The report of the Investigative Committee continues in part:

The rapid increase of big game in many national forests has introduced a new and perplexing factor into national-forest management. This increase in big game has, no doubt, been stimulated by the national-forest administration itself. Government rangers who are considered as game wardens have systematically patrolled the millions of acres of forest lands and aided the states in the enforcement of game-protective measures. In most states, hunters are permitted to kill only one male big-game animal per season. Out of necessity, stockmen and farmers have waged a systematic war on predatory animals. Sportsmen who like to hunt with dogs have found cougar-hunting a thrilling sport. All of these activities have operated to give our deer an unnatural advantage. Deer are very prolific, and under original conditions the mortality was exceedingly high. . . .

The new game situation with which many states are now confronted makes it apparent that the establishment of extensive game refuges conforming to large national-forest divisions, and even whole counties fixed by inflexible legislation, is an unwise procedure in big-game conservation. Experience has taught that it is better to place wide discretionary power with state departments, in order that administrative action may be promptly taken in emergencies. . . .

The establishment of fenced experimental plots, with charted unfenced comparative areas, is a commendable piece of scientific work. Without this type of systematic study, it would have been next to impossible to draw accurate conclusions as to the state of deterioration or possibility of recovery of the overgrazed range of the Kaibab. The recovery on these protected plots is encouraging, in that it proves that the plant life of the Kaibab can be restored to a great extent, if not wholly rehabilitated, if grazing is sufficiently reduced for a number of years. . . .

The committee recognizes the necessity for the present limited use of range by local residents. There should, however, be no increases while the range is in a depleted condition. Stock in excess of permits must be eliminated, and appropriate action taken to stop trespassing and unauthorized grazing, and to remove any uncertainty as to the number of cattle that do actually graze within the Kaibab National Forest. The Forest and Park Services should continue to remove unowned wild horses and unpermitted cattle from the range.

There exists a most urgent need for reducing the present number of deer in the Kaibab area to a point much below the present limited carrying capacity of the range, and maintaining the deer herd at such a level until such time as the various species of shrubs and young trees upon which the deer depend for browse are re-established. Thereafter, by careful game management, the deer may be permitted to increase to such numbers as the natural food supply may sustain. During this necessary period of re-establishment, we recommend that all forms of natural wild animal life, other

than deer, in the Kaibab area be left undisturbed, except for necessary scientific purposes, or where serious damage to private property is being done, and that suspension of federal and state predatory-animal killing be continued. Also the area should be closed to private trapping and hunting of flesh-eating animals until adequate annual reductions of deer are made.

The live-stock men of this section are not asking for any increase on the Kaibab National Forest, but they feel that, if the range is restored so there is a surplus of grass, it would be better to have it used by domestic stock (as deer eat but little grass) than to let it grow up to become a fire hazard to the forest.

The committee recognized that the Kaibab, in connection with the National Park, is a national playground, and that wild life should have first consideration, but that the people who discovered the mountains and water, made the trails and roads, killed the snakes and pacified the Indians, should also be considered.

In all the western states, big game is increasing by leaps and bounds, and there is need for a better understanding between live-stock men and the big-game people. There are many little Kaibabs in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and California that must be regulated if we are to save the range and the live-stock industry.

In Utah, cattle and horses on the national forests have decreased every year since 1919, while deer and elk have increased over 500 per cent during the same period. New Mexico and Arizona have like conditions. In the five years from 1924 to 1929, big game increased 47 per cent on the national forests, and cattle and horses decreased 20 per cent. There is a real need for game management on our western ranges.

* * *

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE

For several years the Kaibab deer problem has attracted national attention. There has been much difference of opinion and some controversy as to conditions of the range and remedies proposed or employed in the management of the Kaibab deer herd. . . .

The Kaibab area in northern Arizona covers approximately 1,052,000 acres, extending northward from the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River. It is bounded on three sides by cliffs which almost everywhere are wholly inaccessible, and on the remaining side an inhospitable desert completes the total isolation of the area, so far as the big game of the region is concerned. . . .

The higher portion of the plateau, covering approximately 370,000 acres, is clothed in beautiful forests of yellow pine, abundantly interspersed with aspen, together with some spruce and white fir. As one begins the descent to the lower areas, thickets of dwarfed oaks, extensive areas of the shrub *Cowania*, locally known as cliff rose, juniper, pinon, and sagebrush are seen to be the prevailing types of vegetation. . . .

By 1920 the officers of the Forest Service in charge of the Kaibab became concerned at the progressive deterioration of the range. In 1924 a committee of men not connected with the Forest Service was appointed to study the range conditions of the territory and determine whether there were more deer on the Kaibab than the food supply would sustain. This investigating committee reported that not only were there too many



CONIFERS ON KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST STRIPPED BARE AS HIGH AS DEER CAN REACH

deer in the territory to subsist on the available food, but that the range had been so largely depleted that it was in imminent danger of being totally destroyed over large areas. It, therefore, recommended the removal of at least one-half of the deer at once. Although their recommendations were not immediately carried out by the state and federal authorities, some reductions have been made every year by these agencies. In addition, there has been much loss to the herd due to starvation on the winter range. . . .

It is the conclusion of the committee, after carefully reviewing the general condition of the Kaibab range, and also observing the degree of recovery within the fenced experimental plots, that the Kaibab area is not now producing more than 10 per cent of the available and nutritious forage that this range once produced. . . .

The forage of the entire Kaibab area is yet in a deplorable condition, and, with the exception of the east side winter range, it is doubtful whether there has been any considerable range recovery due to the reduction of the deer herd. It is believed, however, by those who have studied Kaibab conditions over several years, that in places there is a slight suspension of range deterioration because of the reduction of the deer and domestic stock.

The committee considers the total lack of aspen reproduction, the continuous browsing of conifer species, and the deterioration of the best remaining browse species an indication that the deer are still so numerous as to make range recovery impossible. We, therefore, recommend that supervised hunting be continued, and that a removal not less than that of last season, including both sexes, be effected this fall by licensed hunters or by other legal methods.

[Here follows the paragraph on overgrazing quoted in Mr. Macfarlane's report.]

It is believed that the Kaibab study and demonstration should mark the beginning of a new era in big-game management in the western United States. A study of the Kaibab situation has emphasized the close relationship of game management and forest management. Game cannot exist without subsistence and cover. Range destruction means game destruction. Apparently excess grazing by deer is more destructive to forest reproduction than utilization of the same intensity by either sheep or cattle. Both must be avoided if our forests and ranges are to be saved. Game-preservationists, to be consistent, must oppose overgrazing by game as strenuously as

they have opposed overgrazing by sheep and cattle. Overgrazing by game is certain to defeat the objects of both forest and game conservation.

The principal administrative difficulties on the Kaibab seem to have grown out of the fact that the game belongs to the states, and the forest range on which the game subsists belongs to the nation. The State Fish and Game Department is charged primarily with the protection of the game, and the primary duty of the Forest Service is to protect the forests against injury. This situation exists wherever there are national forests inhabited by game. Federal agencies have made it clear that the government makes no claim to the ownership of game within the national forests.

[The report concludes with the general review of conditions and recommendations as quoted by Mr. Macfarlane.]

CONGRESSMAN SIMMONS ON THE TARIFF

[At the convention of the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association in Alliance, June 10-12, 1931, Robert G. Simmons, representative in Congress from the Sixth District of Nebraska, delivered one of the principal addresses, in which he reviewed the manifold activities of the Department of Agriculture in the interest of the cattle and meat industry, and spoke at length on the tariff situation as it affects that industry. From his remarks on the tariff we quote excerpts as below.]

TWO YEARS AGO CONGRESS WAS IN SESSION, called for the specific purpose of revising the tariff laws, obligated by a declaration that the "home market belongs to the American farmer," and pledged to "support legislation which will give that market to him to the full extent of his ability to supply it." . . .

When the Ways and Means Committee reported the new tariff bill to the House, they proposed tariff increases on meats of approximately 100 per cent. That was pleasing. They, however, proposed no increase in the tariff on live animals, especially cattle; stating that the farmers did not want an

increase in the tariff there, as they desired to buy feeder cattle as cheaply as possible. This situation illustrates the difficulty in tariff-making. A small group of us western men immediately started to secure comparable and adequate increases on importations of live animals. . . . Out of the fight we secured in the House almost, but not quite, duties on live animals comparable to those granted on meats. The Senate had some difficulty in holding the gains we had secured in the House. . . .

An adequate hide tariff was not had. I need not discuss the reason for that situation. The bill does give some protection to hides, for the second time in tariff history. An increase is possible under the flexible provisions of the law before the Tariff Commission.

The way to judge of the merits of the tariff is to study its rates and their effect, item by item, schedule by schedule, commodity by commodity. On that basis, let us review the tariff as it applies to the cattle industry, giving the facts both detrimental and beneficial. I am using the latest figures available when this statement was prepared.

The United States is on an import basis for cattle. General imports in the calendar year 1929 totaled 504,582 head. About half of these cattle came in from Canada and about half from Mexico. Domestic exports to all countries totaled only 7,509 head.

During the three seasons preceding June, 1930, when the new tariff law went into effect, from 80 to 90 per cent of imports of cattle from Canada were feeding and slaughter cattle in about equal amounts, the rest being for dairy and breeding purposes. Most of the imports from Mexico were intended for feeding. During the above-mentioned period, feeder cattle have constituted from 89 to 96 per cent of total inspected imports from Mexico. The remaining imports from Mexico have been for slaughter and breeding purposes.

The tariff on cattle weighing less than 700 pounds was increased from 1½ cents to 2½ cents per pound, and on cattle weighing 700 pounds or more was raised from 2 to 3 cents per pound, by the 1930 Tariff Act.

Total imports of cattle from Canada during the eight months, July to February, following the increase in the tariff rates, fell to only 8.1 per cent of a three-year average for these months, and totaled around 16,000 head. During these months of the year feeder cattle usually somewhat exceed slaughter cattle in the imports from Canada. Note that feeder cattle practically disappeared from Canadian imports during the first eight months after the passage of the 1930 act. Imports from Canada of other classes of cattle were not reduced to the same extent. Breeding cattle fell to 26 per cent, and dairy and slaughter cattle each fell to about 17 per cent, of a three-year average for the eight months.

Total imports of cattle from Mexico during the eight months, July to February, 1930-31, fell to about 25 per cent of a three-year average for these months, being around 31,000 head. During these months of the year slaughter cattle constitute a larger proportion (about 45 per cent) of the total imports than during the balance of the season. Therefore, though imports of feeder cattle fell to about 21 per cent of a three-year average, the fact that slaughter-cattle imports fell to only about 50 per cent resulted in a fall in total imports to around 25 per cent. Note, again, that the heaviest decline in imports from Mexico was in feeder cattle.

In making the following price comparisons between Chicago and Winnipeg, the month of October has been chosen, since the three months, September, October, November, are usually the months of heaviest imports from Canada. Very few cattle are imported between December and the following September in the normal season.

The price in Chicago for medium steers, all weights, in October, 1930, was \$9.45 per 100 pounds, or \$4.87 per 100 pounds higher than the Winnipeg price for medium steers, all weights. This margin of \$4.87 may be compared with a margin of \$4.89 a year earlier. Thus the tariff on cattle weighing 700 pounds and over was increased \$1 per 100 pounds, and imports fell off, but the margin between Chicago and Winnipeg prices remained the same. Both Chicago and Winnipeg prices fell about \$2.65 per 100 pounds between October, 1929, and October, 1930.

In the calendar year 1929 our general imports of fresh and frozen beef amounted to about 38,000,000 pounds. Fifty-five per cent of the beef came from New Zealand and about 32 per cent from Canada. Our domestic exports of beef and veal combined were relatively small, amounting to only about 3,000,000 pounds.

The tariff on beef was increased from \$3 to \$6 per 100 pounds in June, 1930.

In the eight months, July-February, 1930-31, the imports of beef—fresh, chilled, and frozen—fell off to only about 2,335,000 pounds, compared with 22,000,000 in the same months of 1929-30 and 42,670,000 in the same months of 1928-29.*

September is usually the month of heaviest imports from New Zealand. In September, 1930, the New York price of beef from medium steers, 500 pounds up, was \$13.83, or \$7.79 per 100 pounds higher than the New Zealand export price of beef. A year earlier the New York price was \$18.72 per hundred, or \$11.88 per hundred higher than the New Zealand export price. New Zealand export prices held fairly constant during the year, but New York prices fell \$4.89 per hundred. This drop, apparently, followed the drop in prices of cattle both in the United States and Canada.

The heaviest imports from Canada usually fall in the four months, August to November. The Chicago price of beef from good steers, all weights, in September, 1930, was \$16.92 per hundred, or 8 cents per hundred lower than the Winnipeg price of fresh No. 1 butcher carcasses from good steers. A year earlier the Chicago price was \$22.03 per hundred, or \$2.03 per hundred higher than the Winnipeg price.

All the prices mentioned fell during the year, but New York prices fell more than both New Zealand export prices and Winnipeg prices.

Though veal is not separated from beef in our export statistics, we have unquestionably been on an import basis in recent years prior to the passage of the 1930 Tariff Act. Of the 5,000,000 pounds of veal imported in the year 1929, over 73 per cent came from Canada, and the rest from Australia and New Zealand in about equal amounts.

In June, 1930, the tariff on veal was increased from \$3 to \$6 per 100 pounds. Imports during the eight months, July-February, 1930-31, totaled only 541,000 pounds, compared with 2,488,000 and 3,778,000 in the same months of 1929-30 and 1928-29—a drop in imports of 78 and 85 per cent, respectively.

Comparing prices in Chicago and Calgary, the price in Chicago of fresh medium veal (under 250 pounds) in March, 1931, was \$11.75, or \$2.25 per 100 pounds under the price in Calgary. A year earlier the price in Chicago was \$16.55, and was about in the same relationship to the Calgary price. Both Chicago and Calgary prices have fallen about \$4.80 per hundred during the year. . . .

A study of these figures shows, first, a very decided decrease in importations of live animals and dressed meats

*[Imports of canned meats (which are mostly beef) similarly dropped from 63,436,000 pounds during the ten months from July, 1929, to April, 1930, to 15,280,000 pounds for the period from July, 1930, to April, 1931.—Editor.]

since the passage of the new tariff. Prices have generally been affected by the world depression, but a very substantial margin of prices in the United States above competing world prices has been maintained under the new law. But that is not the whole story. There has been a per-capita decrease in the consumption of most meats. But, in spite of that, there has been an increase in the total consumption of domestic meats. In the ten months following the passage of the new tariff law the number of cattle slaughtered under federal inspection decreased 100,000; but against that decreased slaughter of 100,000 is a decreased importation of over 400,000 during the same period—a clear indication of a greater consumption of domestic cattle. During the same period since the passage of the new bill, in the face of decreased consumption, we have slaughtered more calves and sheep than before the passage of the act. Beginning with last November, there has been a very material reduction in the amount of meats in cold storage and in process of curing or cured. In particular, in the case of beef and mutton the amount in storage is well below the five-year average. It would, therefore, appear that, while there has been a reduced per-capita meat consumption in the United States during this depression, there has actually been an increased per-capita consumption of domestic meats. American prices of meats have kept materially above world prices since the passage of the new Tariff Act. Consumption of domestic meats has increased, and the American market has been preserved for the American producer of meats.

AROUND THE MARKET CIRCLE

BY JAMES E. POOLE

PASSING OF JOHN J. LAWLER, KNOWN TO THE trade as "Jack," marks the elimination of a picturesque character. Peculiarly reluctant to court publicity, Lawler was an outstanding personage. Beginning life as a cow-jobber, he acquired some 35,000 acres of land—mainly in northwestern Indiana—in the course of forty years, and was the largest individual owner of farm land in the state, expending millions in drainage and other development. For many years he handled the greatest volume of stock cattle on the Chicago market, having customers in a score of states. Other than a trip to Washington to testify in a congressional hearing, he never traveled farther than the Missouri River, put in his week-ends supervising his farm tenants, spent little on his personal needs, never took a drink of liquor, and indulged in neither hobbies nor recreation. Increasing taxation and declining cattle values caused him serious concern in recent years, worry probably hastening his demise.

By the death of "Charley" Campbell at Los Angeles, a notable family was eliminated from live-stock trade. James H. Campbell, now living at El Centro, California, was the father of George and Charles, both of whom were prominent on the Chicago market; George as head buyer for Morris & Co., Charles for the S. & S. Co.—both defunct. The elder Campbell is probably the oldest living person identified with cattle trade. For many years he was a leader at Chicago, Kansas City, and St. Louis, coming out of the Civil War as a Confederate cavalry captain, after serving with distinction on that side of the mêlée. The trio, father and sons, were conspicuous in cattle circles for many years, George now living on his farm in Ontario.

Wholesale prices of mutton have dropped to absurd and unprecedentedly low levels. At distress sales in New York,

entire carcasses have changed hands at 2 cents per pound. One Saturday in June a certain wholesaler found himself with a thousand pounds of stew meat, necks, and plates on his hands, the best available bid being one-half cent per pound. He solved the problem by sending the package to the Salvation Army, in lieu of a cash contribution. The manager of a poorhouse down east tried the economy experiment of feeding mutton to the inmates, but encountered a hunger strike the third day. Nevertheless, the average restaurant still charges 35 cents for an order of "lamb" stew, the meat ingredient of which is a couple of hunks of fat mutton. Formerly it was possible to send fat ewes to the British market, but that outlet is now closed. Current market prices—\$1 to \$1.75 per cwt.—do not meet freight charges. Recently commission men at Chicago advised farmers to keep ewes at home, or, if disposal was imperative, feed the carcasses to the hogs. Disposal of aged ewes is a serious problem to western sheepmen. "If sent to market, they do not pay their way; hold them on the range, and they will deliver two lambs next spring," remarked John Van Deusen, of Idaho. Some idiot should step into the breach and sound a slogan: "Eat more mutton!"

No moratorium has been declared by the costly dining-car steak. The usual charge is \$1.50 per, and if the purchaser does not derive more exercise than sustenance from his purchase, he is fortunate. One southwestern line charges \$1.65 for a small steak, and on an important system running between New York and Chicago the assessment is \$2. The result is that steak consumption on dining-cars is reduced to the zero point, certain industrialists identified with violation of the Volstead Act, to whom expense is nothing, being the sole bidders. The dollar-and-a-half dining-car steak is an apparent permanency. Possibly it will survive the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. Meanwhile it is responsible for restricting beef consumption in a sphere where tons could be disposed of weekly. The price is as immutable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

"Practically all the advice a sheepman gets in this emergency is to cut production cost," said a Washington operator. "About as far as he can go is taking it out of the shepherd's wages; and there is a definite limit to economy in that direction. Back in 1913, taxes on pasture land in my neck of the woods averaged around \$17 per section; in 1930 this charge, which shows an ever-rising tendency, was \$132. Meanwhile lambs are selling back to 1913 levels. Cost of running ewes, reduced to the minimum, is \$5 to \$7 per head annually, and there is no getting away from it."

Concern as to the trading basis on feeding lambs subsequent to July, when the farmer-feeder usually steps into the arena, is ill-concealed in both camps. Farmers in the Corn Belt are talking lower prices than last year, while western breeders are saying nothing, doing some hard thinking meanwhile. The bank situation in the farming areas is not calculated to throw loose money into the feeding-lamb market; on the other hand, farmers will have an abundance of hay, small grains, and corn. This production could be carried over, but money is needed, and the average farmer realizes that accumulating is bad business. In this emergency, country bankers should finance farmer-feeders, as investment is low and hazard reduced to a minimum. The moment a farmer starts work with a carload of lambs he increases the equity in them, making 25 to 35 pounds of gain that enhances the security of the loan.

Good things have a confirmed habit of going wrong. Recently the contract system of feeding lambs received enthusiastic laudation; but it has not worked out that way. Incompetence is credited with responsibility. One man will take a load of lambs, put them in excellent condition, and return to market to realize maximum results; another, with similar stock, will fail to make appreciable gains, foul fleeces with burrs, and lose money. If it were possible to distinguish between the two types of feeders, the chain system might have a prospect of permanency. Another handicap to such a long-distance operation is that the breeder loses control of his property, with only a remote possibility of retrieve should the man to whom it is intrusted prove dishonest. Supervising such operations effectively is practically impossible.

* * *

"Texas could fill the national meat larder, if assured of adequate and continuous humidity," remarked a northern man who recently "tripped" through the state. This has been Texas year at the market. An accumulation of yearlings and aged sheep, with a generous sprinkling of new-crop lambs, descended on the market, living up to the Texas reputation for breaking prices. An accumulation of south Texas beef was cut loose earlier in the season, but prices dropped to levels that necessitated diversion to pastures. Probably the residue will have a place in cattle trade all through the summer. Texas cattle frequently go a long way to market, Fort Worth getting the first crack at them, the overflow meandering as far as Chicago. Late in June, \$5.50 to \$6 per cwt. brought a considerable number of Texas grassers. The low country is still producing a host of tawny steers, despite cattle improvement in other sections of the state.

* * *

Demand for light cattle has resulted in running a drag-net through the country. Thousands of "snipes," "monkeys," and other types popularly included in the general term "crap" have been introduced to corn and sent to the butcher weighing 650 to 1,000 pounds, making feeders a veritable barrel of money, as they cost little at the initial stage. Killers have shown a voracious appetite for such stock in their scramble to evade weight, incidentally cheapening carcass cost. Cheap, abundant corn has put this bovine trash into excellent condition, the product making a creditable appearance on the block. Anything from 1,100 pounds down selling on the hoof from \$7.25 down has enjoyed popularity. That the country had a reserve stock of this character is incredible, but it materialized in response to price. Light cattle with quality have also had an inning, heifers frequently making the market top, although the spread between choice and common has been narrow—a condition that will change as grass becomes a factor. Late in June, plain, but fat, Short-horn steers, weighing close to 1,500 pounds, sold on the Chicago market at \$6 per cwt., while 900-pound Holsteins were eligible to \$7. This apparently requires explanation, although none is forthcoming, except a determination to evade weight on the part of the ultimate consumer.

WYOMING STOCKMEN AT LANDER

FOUR YEARS THE SENIOR OF ITS TEXAS COL-league, the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association ranks as the Nestor among western breeders' organizations. For close on two generations, in good times and bad, this veteran body of cowmen has been meeting in annual convention in all areas of the sparsely settled state, where travel is made cumbersome by lack of a railroad net connecting its widely scattered

ranches. The more credit is due those who year after year congregate at these gatherings, preserving the historical continuity and upholding Wyoming's reputation of being the most stock-minded state in the Union.

Among the two hundred or more in attendance at the fifty-ninth annual session of the association, held in Lander June 2 and 3, 1931, there were several of the old-timers who had witnessed the development of the range cattle industry in this section from the earliest period until the present day. There was the state's "favorite son," United States Senator John B. Kendrick, a former president of the association, a former governor, and now an acknowledged national authority on everything pertaining to the range. There was the other former governor and present United States senator, Robert D. Carey, younger in years, but ripe in experience. And there was that canny Scot, John Clay, also an ex-president of the association, whose alert eye and ever-ready tongue belie the years that he has been an appreciated visitor at these home-comings.

The program was a broad one, covering the subjects now to the fore in the live-stock world. After the address of welcome by E. D. Edwards, president of the local Chamber of Commerce, and the response by Charles A. Myers, of Evans-ton, Secretary Russell Thorp submitted his report, dealing with the brand-inspection service, stock-theft laws, and tax matters. He was followed by George Mitchell, treasurer, reporting on the financial status of the association, and reports by the inspectors at the different stock-yards. Thereupon the president, J. Elmer Brock, delivered his annual address. He reviewed the legislation of chief concern to the live-stock interests passed at the last session of the state's Legislature, deprecating too much paternalism on the part of the national government. The last speaker on the morning of the first day was H. E. Dickinson, general superintendent of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company, Omaha.

After the luncheon recess, Dr. A. F. Vass, agricultural economist of the University of Wyoming, discussed "Land and Live-Stock Valuations in Relation to Taxation and Profits." Clyde B. Stevens, president of the Denver Live Stock Exchange, and W. B. Tagg, commission man of Omaha, spoke on the problems connected with the marketing service. Greetings from the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association were extended by George K. Christopher, of that state. The recent activities of the American National Live Stock Association were outlined by Secretary F. E. Mollin, of Denver, and Manville Kendrick, of Sheridan, urged greater individual support for the national organization. W. C. Wright, of Swift & Co., Denver, dealt with the subject of oleomargarine. Senator Robert D. Carey then spoke, criticizing certain acts of the federal land banks and the Federal Farm Board.

On the second day, John Clay, commission man of Chicago and the West generally, entertained the audience with reminiscences of early-day Wyoming cowmen. Dr. Elmer Lash, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, urged careful consideration of the government's scheme for testing cattle in the range states for tuberculosis under the modified accredited-area plan. This was opposed by Dr. B. F. Davis, of Denver, secretary of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association. R. P. Heren, ex-president of the Montana Stock Growers' Association, spoke on "The Necessity of Live-Stock Organizations" and recounted some interesting experiences from Montana pioneer days. Senator John B. Kendrick expressed his appreciation of the fine spirit of co-operation shown by the packers and other agencies in joining the stockmen in their fight for legislation at Washington, and explained his vote on the oleomargarine bill. F. M. Simpson,

director of the Commercial Research Department of Swift & Co., Chicago, spoke on quick-frozen package meats, of which he displayed samples.

Of entertainments, there were a scenic drive to graves of Indian chiefs, a banquet, a ball, and a reception and picnic party for the ladies.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Condemning provision in Brigham bill raising tax on colored oleomargarine, and requesting that it be modified to exempt naturally colored animal fat;

Protesting against advice of United States Health Board to eat less meat;

Recommending appointment of committee to collect data on history of association;

Urging Interstate Commerce Commission to refuse request of railroads for increase in freight rates;

Asking taxpayers not to sign petitions for tuberculin-testing of cattle with view to establishing modified accredited areas;

Favoring election of State Board of Equalization and State Land Commission by direct vote;

Protesting against present valuations of agricultural and grazing lands, and asking reduction to actual producing value;

Recommending, as measure of financial relief, fewer federal commissions and less government interference in business;

Urging all market agencies to co-operate in putting into effect collection of 25-cent assessment for financing National Live Stock and Meat Board;

Mourning death of R. S. Van Tassell, member of association since its formation.

All officers were re-elected: J. Elmer Brock, Kaycee, president; D. R. Whitaker, Cheyenne, vice-president; Russell Thorp, Cheyenne, secretary; George Mitchell, Uva, treasurer.

It was voted to bestow the title of "honorary vice-president" on all former presidents who are still living. The following comprise the roster: John Clay, Chicago; John B. Kendrick, Sheridan; Robert D. Carey, Careyhurst; J. C. Shaw, Orin; J. C. Underwood, Underwood; J. L. Jordan, Underwood. The faithful services of Miss Alice Smith, Cheyenne, for many years secretary of the association, were recognized through awarding her a life membership.

Green River was chosen as the place for next year's convention.

SOUTH DAKOTA CONVENTION

ON JUNE 5 AND 6 THE WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA Stock Growers' Association held its fortieth annual convention in Rapid City. The attendance, swelled by a delegation from North Dakota headed by Andrew Johnston, of Watford City, was much larger than usual.

In the afternoon of the first day the executives of the association held their meetings. On Saturday—the formal opening of the convention—Oscar Hermstad, representing Mayor Babington, extended welcome to the stockmen, to which F. S. Rickard, of the Omaha Live Stock Exchange, responded. Harry J. Boyts, of the Sioux City Exchange, also made a brief response. Then followed a talk by W. B. Tagg, of Omaha, in which he stressed the necessity for advertising meat through the agency of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Railroads and transportation were discussed by H. E. Dickinson, general superintendent, and C. H. McNie, live-stock agent, of the Chicago & Northwestern, and by Evan W. Hall, agricultural agent of the Milwaukee road. C. F. Walker, superintendent of the Packers and Stock Yards Administration at Omaha; Roy Jennings, manager of the Fremont Stock Yards, and A. E. Anderson, of Brookings, next spoke, the last-named exhibiting charts showing the present-day live-stock situation.

On the last afternoon, world live-stock market conditions were outlined by Edward N. Wentworth, director of Armour's

Live Stock Bureau, Chicago. F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, spoke on "Present and Projected Activities of the National Association." South Dakota's state veterinarian, Dr. T. H. Ruth, talked on "Abortion in Cattle." He was followed by L. R. Houck, of Gettysburg; Reuben Potter, of the Central Co-operative Association, St. Paul; B. H. Heide, manager of the Internatioal Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, and Lyman G. Troth, of Pierre. A. B. Plummer, a professional hunter, made an address entitled "Pest Control." In a talk by Andrew Johnston, continued co-operation between the stockmen of North and South Dakota was urged. As a member of the Finance Committee of the American National Live Stock Association, J. H. Nason asked that stockmen individually support that organization by becoming members. Tom Jones, president of the state association, took up this request and further impressed the necessity for such support.

Since its last meeting the association has lost one of its charter members—Isaac M. Humphreys. An appropriate resolution was passed mourning his death.

Other resolutions were adopted as below:

Protesting enforcement of tuberculin testing of feeder cattle shipped interstate from non-accredited to disease-free areas;

Urging Secretary of Agriculture to expedite hearings on yardage and commission charges;

Asking that Interstate Commerce Commission deny railroads' request for increased rates;

Commending live-stock exchanges for their co-operation;

Recommending fewer government commissions and boards and less government interference in business;

Urging co-operation of market agencies in collecting 25-cent assessment for Meat Board;

Urging discontinuance of suggestions by Public Health Service to eat less meat;

Expressing thanks to those contributing to success of convention.

All the present officers were retained for the ensuing year: Tom Jones, Midland, president; J. H. Nason, Spearfish, vice-president; Miss Queena Stewart, Buffalo Gap, secretary-treasurer.

NEBRASKA MEETING

JUST AS THE SANDHILLS OF NORTHWESTERN Nebraska resemble great ocean waves, so, in the convention hall at Alliance, where the annual meeting of the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association was held on June 10-12, the upturned faces of five hundred Nebraska cattlemen suggested reserve strength and solidarity of purpose. These men came with full realization of today's adversities, but they also carried with them the characteristic optimism of the pioneer. Throughout the session this spirit of optimism prevailed.

The first day was given over to committee meetings. Promptly at 9 o'clock on June 11, in the court-room where all sessions were held, Mayor Earl D. Mallory welcomed the stockmen. Responses were made by Thomas F. Arnold, of Cody, and A. D. Majors, of Omaha. Following this, President Robert Graham read his annual address, stressing the necessity for keeping the industry on a high level of efficiency and for maintaining a healthy demand for beef. John T. Caine, III, of the Chicago Union Stock Yards, discussed the question, "What's Ahead in the Cattle Business?" He was followed by D. M. Hildebrand, who told about the "Relation of Cattle-Feeders in the Corn Belt to Cattle-Feeders in Range Sections." "Current Comments" was the title of a paper by Professor H. J. Gramlich, of the Nebraska College of Agriculture.

In the afternoon, George K. Christopher made a forceful

plea for organization. Other speakers of the afternoon were Dr. H. L. Feistner, of the Nebraska Bureau of Animal Industry, whose subject was "What the Department Is Doing toward Eradication of Animal Diseases;" Dr. Neil Plank, who read a document on "Tuberculosis Eradication," prepared by Dr. A. H. Francis; and E. M. Brouse, of the State Agricultural College, who spoke on "Results of Proper Feeding in Adding to Profits in Raising Cattle." Various phases of transportation problems were discussed by Fred G. Gurley and F. Montmorency, of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad; Newton A. Williams, of the Union Pacific System; and W. P. Golden and H. E. Dickinson, of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway. Following these talks, the audience shifted to the court-house lawn to witness a beef-cutting demonstration conducted by Professor William J. Loeffel, of the Nebraska College of Agriculture. An added attraction of this day was the evening's banquet and dance.

The next morning opened with a presentation of major live-stock issues by Congressman Robert G. Simmons, whose speech is set out in part elsewhere in this number of THE PRODUCER. A. D. Majors and F. S. Rickard, of the Omaha Live Stock Exchange; Frank E. Scott, of the Sioux City Exchange, and Clyde Stevens, of the Denver Exchange, gave talks on live-stock marketing. "The Outlook for the Cattle Industry from a Banking Standpoint" was presented by L. K. Moore, of the Omaha Stock Yards National Bank, and "What Packers Are Doing to Create Markets for Live Stock" was related by Edward N. Wentworth, director of Armour's Live Stock Bureau.

In the closing session, A. R. Modisett, vice-president of the American National Live Stock Association, in introducing F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National, spoke of the value of national organization to stockmen. Mr. Mollin reviewed the important national live-stock problems of the day. Daniel Adamson followed with a plea for support and unity in national as well as state affairs.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Recommending spreading of cattle shipments over as long a marketing season as possible;

Commending Department of Agriculture on its study of factors influencing tenderness and palatability of meats;

Appreciating live-stock experiment work of Nebraska College of Agriculture, and indorsing Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club work;

Urging that Interstate Commerce Commission deny railroads' request for rate increases;

Urging Secretary of Agriculture to expedite hearings on yardage and commission charges;

Congratulating Bureau of Animal Industry and National Live Stock and Meat Board on progress made in grading and stamping beef, and urging that advertisements carry suggestion that consumer demand government-graded beef;

Thanking live-stock exchanges for their co-operation;

Appreciating support of various representatives and congressmen;

Supporting THE PRODUCER;

Urging all market agencies to co-operate in putting in effect proposed 25-cent assessment for National Live Stock and Meat Board;

Recommending, as a partial relief for present depression, that government create fewer boards and commissions, and interfere less in business;

Protesting enforcement of tuberculin-testing regulation; Asking governor to expedite state aid for Nebraska north-and-south highway;

Expressing sorrow at death of John H. Orr, of Lewellen, and David Hanna, of Wood Lake;

Thanking those contributing to success of convention.

Headed by Robert Graham, president, all officers were re-elected in the closing session. A. R. Modisett, of Rushville, is vice-president, and Frank M. Broome, of Alliance, secretary.

Next year the association will meet in Scottsbluff.

MEETING OF GUNNISON COUNTY STOCK GROWERS

POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPING A MARKET ON THE Pacific coast for first-class beef from the Rocky Mountain area were discussed at the annual meeting of the Gunnison County Stock Growers' Association, held in Gunnison, Colorado, last month. C. T. Stevens, who represented the organization at the convention of the American National Live Stock Association in Seattle in January, reported that a visit to the stock-yards of California, Oregon, and Washington had convinced him that there would be a ready demand on the west coast for Colorado-grown beef, contingent upon an adjustment of freight rates. The discrimination at present existing against the Rocky Mountain region had been referred to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Officers of the association were instructed to take the necessary steps in defending range law cases being appealed by the sheepmen. Request was made of the Department of the Interior to grant the association a hearing on proposed stock driveways adjacent to the Gunnison National Forest.

Neal M. Andrews was re-elected president; Lee Van Easterly, vice-president; and Frank A. Betz, secretary.

CATTLEMEN OF COLORADO'S WESTERN SLOPE

INDORSEMENT OF THE RANGE LAW OF COLORADO which adjudicates controversies over the public domain between cattlemen and sheepmen, and assistance in testing the validity of the law in the courts, were voted by the Western Slope Stock Growers' Association in convention at Collbran, Colorado, June 27. Other resolutions expressed approval of the advertising campaign undertaken by the National Live Stock and Meat Board, appealed to retailers to lower their meat prices to conform to present values of live animals, and recommended the withdrawal of range land from entry under the 640-Acre Homestead Act.

A committee was appointed, with a member from each of the ten cattle districts represented in the association, to select officials for the coming year.

FIELD DAY AT MARFA

A UNIQUE EVENT IN LIVE-STOCK ANNALS WAS THE Field Day held under the auspices of the Highland Hereford Breeders' Association at Marfa, Texas, June 18 and 19. Responding to the slogan, "Let Us Get Acquainted," three hundred visitors from six states, consisting of breeders, feeders, packers, commission men, railroad men, and bankers, had gathered to view the Big Bend country and what it produces, and to establish the foundation for a better understanding.

The visitors were divided into six groups, which were taken on separate tours of inspection to forty-four representative ranches, made up of hundreds of thousands of acres of grazing land and stocked with over 200,000 head of choice Herefords. At noon chuck-wagon lunches were served at the different ranches, and on the evening of June 19 the occasion was rounded off by a barbecue supper, given at the Marfa fair grounds and attended by approximately one thousand people who had come from all parts of central and western Texas.

Here, with Judge J. W. Merrill, president of the Highland Hereford Breeders' Association, acting as chairman, speeches were made by such well-known stockmen as W. B. Mitchell, of Marfa, to whose efforts much of the success of the meeting was due; Frank Holland, of Dallas; John E.

Painter, of Roggen, Colorado; Dr. C. W. McCampbell, of the Kansas State College; and Dan D. Casement, of Manhattan, Kansas. These talks by the professionals were supplemented by remarks by E. W. Sheets, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D. C., and representatives of the railroad and banking interests.

ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL LIVE STOCK AND MEAT BOARD

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL Live Stock and Meat Board was held at Chicago on June 17 and 18. The board has recently been enlarged to give representation to several groups not previously included, and the meeting was attended by representatives of every branch of the industry from producer to retailer.

Report on Retail Prices

It is impossible in this report to chronicle all the routine business of the meeting—only the high spots can be touched. Of special interest was the report on the "retail-meat price-reporting service" inaugurated a year ago by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in response to a request from the Meat Board. This report showed substantial declines in both wholesale and retail prices in New York City in the last two years, although not in proportion to the decline in live-animal prices in the same period.

Beef-Cutting Demonstrations

It is encouraging to note that a good many cutting demonstrations are still being made, in spite of the fact that the special fund for that purpose was exhausted several months ago. This is only possible through the splendid co-operation being given the Meat Board by many members of the faculties at our state agricultural colleges. Not only are these men teaching their own pupils (both boys and girls) all there is to know about meat, but they are reaching out and helping to instruct the general public likewise.

United States Beef-Grading Service

The report made by C. V. Whalin and W. C. Davis, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, on this project, partly under the wing of the Meat Board, showed that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1931, 102,050,925 pounds of beef were graded, compared with 48,548,579 pounds the previous year. While part of this growth was due to the extension of the service to the cities of St. Louis, Buffalo, Erie, Sioux City, Detroit, and Wichita late in 1930, all the cities previously served, with one exception, showed substantial increases.

Home Economics and Meat Cookery

The importance of this phase of the work was emphasized in various reports, indicating that our federal government and many of our agricultural colleges are doing important work along lines in which the Meat Board has pioneered.

Meat Pageant and Parade

Last, but not least, was the parade down Michigan Avenue and back on State Street, showing thousands of Chicago citizens sights they had never seen before. The theme of the parade was "Meat Is Cheap," and the point was driven home in a most forceful and unique manner. Little thought was given to advertising any firm that participated—some floats carried no advertising except to say that "meat is cheap." The relative purchasing power of the dollar a year ago and today was graphically shown in papier-maché cuts of various kinds

of meats. "Meat is back to horse-and-buggy days in price" read the sign on a horse-and-buggy rig, while King James I, in full regalia, was seen knighting "Sir Loin of Beef" on a neighboring truck. The largest "red-hot" ever made was much in evidence. All in all, it was a parade that will live long in the memory of those who saw it, and it will be many a day before another flock of sheep and a camp-wagon will be seen on Michigan Avenue. Plans are under way to hold similar pageants in other cities.

Election of Officers

Charles D. Carey, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, first vice-president of the American National Live Stock Association, which organization he, with O. M. Plummer, of Portland, Oregon, represents on the board, was re-elected chairman. Mr. Carey already has served two terms in that position. Thomas E. Wilson, of Chicago, head of the packing company which bears his name, and one of the two representatives of the Institute of American Meat Packers, was re-elected vice-chairman; Everett C. Brown, of Chicago, former president of the National Live Stock Exchange, which he represents, was re-elected treasurer; and R. C. Pollock, of Chicago, secretary and general manager, was continued in that office. The board will hold its semi-annual meeting in Chicago during the International Live Stock Exposition this fall.

The National Live Stock and Meat Board brings together for a common purpose interests which have no other point of contact. It is worthy of the support of every stockman in the United States.

INSTITUTE OF CO-OPERATION AT MANHATTAN

METHODS AND PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURAL CO-operation in its manifold aspects were subjected to a scientific appraisal at the seventh annual summer session of the American Institute of Co-operation, held at Kansas State College, Manhattan, during the whole week of June 8 to 13. About 1,500 leaders in the movement, coming from thirty-three states and three foreign countries, and aided by scores of educators and public officials, testified to the increasingly important part which co-operation is playing in the economic life of the world. The divisions of the program indicate the extent of the ground covered: general co-operative problems, co-operative purchasing, educational relationships, dairy products, grain marketing, live-stock marketing, mutual insurance, potato marketing, poultry and egg marketing, and wool marketing. Each of these groups of topics was dealt with by numerous speakers, throwing light upon it from every possible angle.

At the opening session, June 8, the institute was addressed by Arthur M. Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture, who showed how world agricultural production is a problem from which the American farmer cannot dissociate himself, however much he might like to. Under the heading of live-stock marketing, C. B. Denman, member of the Federal Farm Board, spoke on "Possibilities of Adjusting Live-Stock Production to Demand," holding that excessive fluctuations may to a large extent be obviated through organized study of market requirements, involving the selling of live stock by grade. Other speakers in that division were Samuel R. Guard, editor of the *Breeder's Gazette*, Chicago; P. O. Wilson, manager of the National Live Stock Marketing Association, Chicago; F. M. Simpson, of the Commercial Research Department of Swift & Co., Chicago; C. G. Randell, of the Division of Co-operative Marketing of the Federal Farm Board, Washington, D. C.:

and C. A. Stewart, manager of the Feeder and Finance Division of the National Live Stock Marketing Association.

Outside of the regular program, a conference was held of representatives of farm, live-stock, and dairy organizations for the purpose of considering a unified program with relation to national and state legislation dealing with animal and vegetable fats and oils. The conference was called at the initiative of the American National Live Stock Association, which was represented by President Boice, Vice-President Collins, and Secretary Mollin. It was decided to appoint a committee, consisting of two members from each of the organizations invited to attend, to give further study to this subject, and other conferences are expected to follow.

Taking advantage of the presence of the Secretary of Agriculture, representatives of the live-stock interests impressed upon him the importance of rendering a prompt decision in the pending commission and stock-yard rate cases. Mr. Hyde promised to expedite the consideration of these matters.

TWENTY-FIVE-CENT ASSESSMENT TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT

COLLECTION OF THE 25-CENTS-A-CAR ASSESSMENT on all live stock shipped to market, to be spent by the National Live Stock and Meat Board in promoting the cause of meat, was brought one step nearer realization last month when the live-stock exchanges at Kansas City, St. Joseph, Omaha, and Wichita took action to get behind the movement. At Denver the collection has been in force for some time.

This plan, it will be recalled, has been sponsored for a long time past by the American National Live Stock Association and a very large number of state and local stock-growers' organizations. It contemplates collecting the amount of 50 cents a car—25 cents to be contributed by the shipper and 25 cents by the packer—for the work of the Meat Board. The sum of 10 cents a car at present being collected for this purpose—5 cents each from the producer and the packer—has been found wholly inadequate, especially as conditions are now developing in the live-stock and meat trade.

At the convention of the National Live Stock Exchange in Denver a year ago, a resolution was passed urging members to make the collection from such shippers as agreed. Later the Institute of American Meat Packers took similar action, contingent upon general acceptance of the scheme.

BIG GAME ANIMALS ON NATIONAL FORESTS

BIG GAME ANIMALS ON THE 151 NATIONAL FORESTS of the United States were estimated to number 1,073,111 at the beginning of this year, according to the Forest Service. This is a gain of approximately 9 per cent over the preceding year. The figures are based partly on an actual count and partly on estimates by experienced forest officers.

Last year's increase was chiefly in deer, but elk also gained considerably. Moose, mountain sheep, mountain goats, and antelopes showed slight gains. Bears were keeping up the struggle for existence in fair numbers, although the great grizzly gave ground in many of the forests, and black and brown bears suffered in some localities.

The latest estimates showed deer present on every one of the forests. Last year the number increased from 802,450 to 877,780 under state and federal protection. Despite the many thousands bagged by hunters, most of the western

forests showed gains. California had 259,300 deer in its nineteen national forests; Arizona, over 91,000, with a gain of 6,000; and Colorado, 36,380, with a gain of 3,000. Of black and brown bears there were estimated to be about 50,000 living on the forests.

JUNE CROP REPORT

MAY WEATHER WAS LESS FAVORABLE FOR THE growth of fall-sown grains than that of previous months. Condition of winter wheat dropped from 90.3 per cent of normal on May 1 to 84.3 per cent on June 1, as announced by the Crop-Reporting Board, while that of rye was reduced from 85.4 to 74.8 per cent. Corresponding decreases in production estimates bring the winter-wheat forecast down from the 652,902,000 bushels of May to 649,115,000 bushels in June. As last year's harvest was of 604,337,000 bushels, however, we are still considerably to the good. The rye crop showed a greater proportionate falling-off for the month—from 50,676,000 to 43,766,000 bushels. Last year the rye yield was 50,234,000 bushels.

Spring wheat presents a less promising outlook. A condition of only 67.9 per cent was indicated on June 1, according to the government. This compares with 85.7 per cent a year ago, and is the lowest on record. No estimate of the crop has as yet been given out, but private statisticians place it at the lowest point in twenty years.

Oats figure with a condition of 84.7 per cent, against 83.2 per cent on June 1 last year. For barley, the figures are 77.2 and 86.4 per cent, respectively. Wild hay is given a rating of 69.6 per cent, compared with 85.7 in 1930, and tame hay 77.4, compared with 77.6.

THE CALENDAR

- July 14-15, 1931—Annual Convention of Arizona Wool Growers' Association, Flagstaff, Ariz.
- July 21, 1931—Midsummer Meeting of Utah Wool Growers' Association, American Fork, Utah.
- July 21-25, 1931—Frontier Days, Cheyenne, Wyo.
- July 23-24, 1931—Annual Convention of Colorado Wool Growers' Association, Durango, Colo.
- July 28, 1931—Midsummer Meeting of Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association, Monte Vista, Colo.
- July 28-31, 1931—Annual Convention of Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association of Texas, San Angelo, Tex.
- August 6-8, 1931—Annual Convention of Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, Rawlins, Wyo.
- August 17-20, 1931—Range Research Conference, Great Basin Branch Station, Ephraim, Utah.
- August 22-29, 1931—National Swine Show, Springfield, Ill.
- August 24-27, 1931—National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- September 28-October 4, 1931—Dairy Cattle Congress, Waterloo, Iowa.
- October 9, 1931—Annual Feeder Sale of Highland Hereford Breeders' Association, Marfa, Tex.
- October 10-18, 1931—National Dairy Exposition, St. Louis, Mo.
- October 21, 1931—Conference and Friendship Dinner of Leaders of Major Industries, New York, N. Y.
- October 21-November 6, 1931—Ak-Sar-Ben Live Stock Exposition, Omaha, Neb.
- October 24-31, 1931—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- November 14-21, 1931—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.
- November 28-December 5, 1931—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
- December 11-12, 1931—Annual Convention of California Cattle-men's Association and Western Cattle Marketing Association, San Francisco, Cal.
- January 16-23, 1932—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.
- January 27-29, 1932—Thirty-fifth Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, San Antonio, Tex.

THE PRODUCER

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IN THE INTEREST OF THE

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Volume XIII JULY, 1931 Number 2

TARIFF-TINKERING

ORDINARILY ONCE IN EIGHT YEARS HAS been considered quite often enough to tinker with the tariff. It does not appear likely, however, that the Hawley-Smoot act, which became effective June 18, 1930, will remain unchanged that long. Aside from the possibility of the Democratic party assuming control of the government in 1932, there are already two camps clamoring for action: on the one hand, the oil industry, the copper industry, and others, dissatisfied with the protection—or, in some cases, the lack of protection—accorded them in the present law; and, on the other hand, a group of financial leaders with large foreign interests, who protest that the new high rates have killed our foreign trade and are largely accountable for the depression. This latter group calmly ignores the fact that the depression is as serious in countries with low tariffs as in those with high tariffs, taking advantage of an unusual situation to press their point.

It is rather strange that we should have heard so little from these people in the past, when our raw materials were largely on the free list and industry was enjoying high protective rates on its manufac-

tured articles. The minute that agriculture approached a parity with industry, as it does in the present law, we are warned that the rates must be lowered to save our foreign trade.

It is quite likely that the country would have been better off today had the administration stuck to its original purpose and allowed only agricultural items to be revised. But if these internationalists win their point, and we have a downward revision of the tariff in the near future, watch and see how much more liberal they will be in suggesting cuts on agricultural products than on the products of industry. Industry cannot forever fatten at the expense of agriculture, much as some of its leaders would like to. They will wait a long time before going on another joy ride of prosperity, such as culminated in the crash of 1929, unless they find room in the car for agriculture.

RETAIL MEAT PRICES

THE RECENT CAMPAIGN OF THE NATIONAL Live Stock and Meat Board to increase meat consumption, which spread to many parts of the country, has brought to light some interesting facts:

First—Meat prices at retail *have declined* more than is commonly realized by the consuming public.

Second—Retail prices *have not declined* in proportion to the decline in live-animal prices.

Third—Twenty-six per cent of the food used in this country is consumed in hotels, restaurants, and dining-cars, and some of these *have not reduced* prices at all in proportion to present-day costs.

It is up to wholesalers, retailers, and all other food-purveyors to reduce operating costs wherever possible, and to give the consumer the fullest possible benefit of the break in prices.

THE PRODUCER believes that great good will come from the country-wide effort now being made to inform housewives that the buying power of their dollar has increased materially; but it also believes that part of the trouble is so deep-seated that even the white light of publicity cannot correct it.

The most discouraging factor in the recent price slump was the fact that good-quality, well-finished cattle were the hardest to move, while riffraff seemed to be in constant demand. Senator Kendrick stated in a speech at Lander recently that, while he had been buying good bulls for twenty-five years in order to improve his herd, the present situation indicated that he was on the wrong track, and that, if someone had some no-account bulls to sell, perhaps he should try to buy them.

Someone is falling down on the job somewhere along the line between producer and consumer. Perhaps the business depression stimulates the demand

for cheap product, but situations of this kind have been recurring with alarming frequency. The retailer tells us that the consumer will not buy wasty beef. The consumer complains as to the quality of the product he gets, or the price he has to pay.

Many people are coming to believe that a uniform grading system is the key to the problem, and that grading should be extended farther into the lower grades. The grading of beef is past the experimental stage—witness the splendid increase in the demand for government-graded beef, reported elsewhere in this issue, with four grades now being stamped, and the fact that the big packers are stamping with their private brands practically everything eligible to the three top grades.

THE PRODUCER holds the solution of this problem one of the most important confronting the industry. If low-grade, warmed-up cattle continue to sell too close to the price of good-quality, long-fed animals, there will be an increased demand for grading and stamping the lower grades, including thousands of carcasses from dairy cows, for what they really are.

The consumer must be informed as to the relative value of the different grades, and accept some degree of waste as a necessary adjunct to the flavor and tenderness desired. Stores that feature only price, with no regard to quality, can be brought into line only in this fashion.

Everyone interested in the industry, casting aside selfish considerations, should do everything possible to push the government grading system as fast as the machinery to handle it properly can be set up, and a demand created for the product. It has had much unfair criticism, but its constant growth, and the use of the service by both packers and retailers who originally were opposed to it, are the best proof of its value.

Solve the grading problem, get beef sold for what it really is, and the retail price problem will be much less troublesome.

THE TWENTY-FIVE-CENT ASSESSMENT

FOR TWO YEARS THE NATIONAL LIVE Stock and Meat Board and the many agencies supporting it have worked unceasingly to put into effect the increased assessment to finance the board. One obstacle after another has been overcome. And now, just as victory seemed in sight, the stubborn refusal of one organization—the Central Co-operative Association of St. Paul—bids fair to undo the result of the whole two years' work. True, collection of the twenty-five-cent assessment has already started at Omaha, Sioux City, Kansas City, Wichita, St. Joseph, and Denver, but it is with the understanding that it shall soon follow at the other

principal markets. So long as the Central Co-operative will not collect, the St. Paul Live Stock Exchange cannot be expected to. The Iowa interior packers, in close competition with St. Paul, think it unfair to collect unless St. Paul does. The Chicago Live Stock Exchange feels keenly the competition of the Iowa packers, and wishes to be on an even footing with them.

It seems incredible that one agency should be willing to block a nation-wide movement of such tremendous concern to the industry. Never was there greater need for work of the kind done by the National Live Stock and Meat Board. No agency in the United States gets such value received for the dollar spent as does this board. The unique pageant staged on Michigan Avenue and State Street, described elsewhere in this issue, with resulting publicity of inestimable value to the industry, cost the Meat Board less than \$1,000 in cold cash.

The payment of the assessment is purely voluntary. If any shipper objects, no charge is made. If a complaint comes after a charge appears on the account sales, the Meat Board pledges itself immediately to reimburse the collecting agency. It is absolutely impossible and impractical for market agencies to get signed authorizations from each shipper. Insistence on this is evidence of a desire to obstruct, rather than to assist in a time of great emergency.

With demands coming from all over the country for meat-cutting demonstrations, and for literature to assist in putting on campaigns to increase the consumption of meat, the Meat Board has had to let many orders go unfilled. It will be a sorry exhibition of discord and blindness to our best interests if we allow this condition to continue.

ST. JOSEPH COMMISSION-RATE CASE

HEARINGS BY THE PACKERS AND STOCK Yards Administration are under way at St. Joseph to determine reasonable commission rates. F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, was on the stand most of the day June 15, while F. R. Marshall, secretary of the National Wool Growers' Association, was heard on the following day.

The cross-examination by attorneys for the St. Joseph Live Stock Exchange wandered far afield, more time being devoted to the doings of the Federal Farm Board and the National Live Stock Marketing Association than to the matter in hand. When an attempt was made to delve into the affairs of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, the patience of the examiner was exhausted, and a stop was put to needless waste of time and burdening of the record.



Attempts to befog the issue will not be popular with live-stock producers. At all the recent conventions they have been urged by numerous speakers to pare their operating costs to the core. They are beginning to think this is good advice for others as well, and that it is time some concrete results from such a program should be in evidence.

Live-stock producers demand good service at the markets; they are willing to pay for such service; but, under present conditions, they have a right to expect the commission men to co-operate in furnishing it at as reasonable a price as possible.

The Secretary of Agriculture should expedite the work of the Packers and Stock Yards Administration and render decisions at the earliest practicable date.

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ADVISES

AT A TIME WHEN LIVE-STOCK PRICES ARE the lowest in two decades; when both breeders and feeders are incurring disastrous losses; when meat consumption is already being curtailed under stress of economic necessity, and when a great defensive movement is being launched by the unified meat interests to stimulate a sagging demand, it is particularly unfortunate that a government agency should be appealing to the public to eat less meat.

Early in June the Public Health Service broadcast the following advice:

Meat is an active heat-producing food, as shown by the fact that natives of the Far North live entirely on animal products; and, therefore, the amount of meat eaten in the hot season should be less than that eaten in the colder months.

Protests by the score were at once dispatched to Washington. On the erroneous assumption that the Public Health Service was a bureau of the Department of Agriculture, most of these protests were addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture. Many of them were sent directly to the White House. As a matter of fact, for some occult reason, the Treasury Department administers the health matters of this nation. However, Secretary Hyde, who knew nothing of the broadcast, immediately got into action, requesting that the damage be repaired, so far as this was possible.

The Surgeon General, responsible for the statement, was inclined to belittle the affair. The suggestion to eat less meat during the summer months, he explained, applied in equal measure to all heat-producing foods, and was nothing more than had been given out at this time for years.

Anyway, the promise was forthcoming from the Secretary of the Treasury that in the future an old rule requiring all official pronouncements to be submitted in advance to the head of the department con-

cerned would be enforced. In other words, it would not happen again.

The danger from this sort of thing, of course, lies in the fact that indiscriminating readers and radio listeners, of whom there are not a few, will see in such admonitions, coming from their government, confirmation of the claims of diet faddists and propagandists for other foods that the eating of meat in general is injurious. Repeated often enough, and with sufficient insistence, these claims in many minds will leave an impression that only needs some form of corroboration to settle down into a firm conviction.

For the reason that the opportunities for misinterpretation and wrong emphasis are so many, and because much more may be at stake than appears on the surface, it seems that too great care cannot be exercised by our government in assuming the role of super-counselor to the people. It also occurs to THE PRODUCER that, where the importance of such official advice ramifies in so many directions, a certain amount of interdepartmental collaboration in preparing the emissions would not be amiss.

INCREASE DENIED IN HIDE DUTY

IN A REPORT APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT on June 24, the United States Tariff Commission informs us that, "after giving careful consideration to the evidence obtained and to the maximum benefits that might accrue to producers or consumers from a change in the rate of duty," it finds that no increase is warranted at this time in the tariff on cattle hides. The difficulties involved in a detailed study of comparative costs are set forth as the reason why no such investigation was undertaken.

The duty, consequently, remains at 10 per cent ad valorem.

This decision will be received with genuine regret by all cattlemen, who had been hoping that the demand for the small increase of 50 per cent—the maximum permissible under the Tariff Act—would be recognized as just, and that favorable action on this request would be taken as partial restitution for what Congress had failed to do when the law was passed. It is depressing to reflect that all the arguments for granting the higher rate, presented both before Congress and the Tariff Commission, should have carried so little weight. With cattle prices at their present level, even the fraction of a dollar involved in the increase asked for would have meant something to the average producer.

The battle, however, is not yet ended. We have got hides on the dutiable list—that is one important point gained. In any future adjustment of rates, producers can be depended upon again to press their claims with vigor.

THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

CONDITIONS UNFAVORABLE FOR CO-OPERATIVE ACTION

SALMON, IDAHO, June 15, 1931.

TO THE PRODUCER:

It is very difficult to interest stockmen in association affairs. Unsatisfactory conditions, with no relief in sight, are forcing abandonment of procedures of co-operative administration for reasons of cash economy. Sheep interests especially are in a distressing situation in this section. At present there is co-operative action in the assembling of early lambs meeting requirements for the top market, but no doubt this opportunity will be of comparatively short duration.

A good grass season is now assured, and crops are in good condition; but, with the threatened shortage of irrigation water, storage of winter feed supplies may be of normal amount.

Conditions are diverting more interest toward dairying for the current cash account.

GEORGE E. SHOUP.

WHAT PRICE LAMB CHOPS?

CINCINNATI, OHIO, June 19, 1931.

TO THE PRODUCER:

The June issue of THE PRODUCER has just reached me. I enjoy receiving and reading each number.

Under the caption "Around the Market Circle" in the number at hand I read of the sheepman who was assessed the outrageous price of \$1.50 for English (?) mutton chops. All of which causes me to pause for a rather large "giggle." Yes, he was stung, and so was I.

Just Wednesday of this week I had dinner in one of the leading hotels in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana. With an appetite for a couple of English (?) lamb chops, I so ordered. I really enjoyed the dinner a lot; but, as all good things come to an end sooner or later, so it was with the dinner, and, believe me, with plenty of gloom! The check totaled \$2.55, of which \$1.60 accounted for two English (?) lamb chops. Shades

of the Great Horned Ram! Whereat all rams should take exceeding and great pride in the ultimate end of worthy and unworthy progeny.

I have yet to find a hotel menu-card carrying prices consistent with the general market trend of foodstuffs, and this is particularly true of meats. In plain words, it's a hold-up. And do you know that many dining-cars do not carry beef on their menu-cards, and that these very same dining-cars are routed over railways which are soliciting live-stock business? When are the beef-producers and packers going to discuss such matters with the railways, so anxious for live-stock business? And, when they do discuss the matter, is it going to be with a "soft" backbone, or are they really going to talk strong "talk" and mean every palabra?

My sympathy, indeed, goes out to the Idaho sheepman who got two jolts—one when he sold his sheep, and the second when he bought the fruits of his own labor and worry. He sure has some "squawk" coming.

SAMUEL E. ELDRIDGE.

INCREASE IN RAILROAD RATES WILL NOT INCREASE REVENUE

PUEBLO, COLO., July 1, 1931.

TO THE PRODUCER:

During the past twenty-three years the railroad rate on alfalfa meal has been raised \$2 per ton. The price of our alfalfa is fixed by the market price at St. Louis. If the rate on meal was \$5 per ton at this time, alfalfa would be \$2 per ton higher at our Valley mills. From this it will be seen that we are in reality taxed \$2 for every ton of alfalfa we raise, whether we sell it to the mills or not.

The area of alfalfa grown in the Arkansas Valley of Colorado amounts to 252,000 acres. An average yield of two and one-half tons per acre means a total annual yield of 630,000 tons. At \$2 per ton, this amounts to \$1,260,000, which is the annual cost to the alfalfa-growers in the Arkansas Valley of the increase in railroad rates.

The railroad interests are holding meetings with the chambers of commerce and clubs in various cities, advertising their need for increased revenue. Backed by the labor organizations and bond- and stockholders, they are going to put up a determined fight for increased rates. It is also going to take a determined fight to prevent the increase being granted.

In times of depression like the present, the railroads should stand their share of the decrease in revenue. In my opinion, they will be decreasing revenue instead of increasing it by increasing rates. Any business can stand only so much; then it will seek other sources of revenue and business. Railroad rates are already too high for the best interests of the country. Lower railroad rates would increase business, and in that way increase revenue.

C. W. BEACH.

Yokum Cattle Chutes

Built for ruggedness, dependability, and ease of operation; built for more work in a day—better branding—cleaner dehorning.

The Yokum chute is constructed to stand the struggling and tugging of the branding and dehorning process, and to operate smoothly under the stress.

Plans and specifications are priced at \$25, or we will build it for you.

J. C. YOKUM, Designer and Builder

1826 Castro Street

Oakland, California

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

FEDERAL FARM BOARD

IN RESPONSE TO A SUGGESTION BY PRESIDENT Hoover that the Federal Farm Board clarify its position with regard to the wheat held by the Grain Stabilization Corporation, James C. Stone, chairman of the board, declares that sales of government-owned wheat will be limited to 5,000,000 bushels a month during the next year. This represents a modification of the policy previously announced by the board, but fails to accede to the request of the growers that the board's surplus be withheld from the market while the 1931 crop is being marketed. Fixing of a price at which the Stabilization Corporation would sell is not in the interest of farmers, in the opinion of Mr. Stone.

* * *

Unqualified approval of the Agricultural Marketing Act and the Federal Farm Board was expressed in a resolution adopted at a meeting of thirty-five agricultural leaders, representing fourteen national farm organizations, in Chicago on June 29. This is held to be the opening shot in a campaign that has for its aim active opposition to those forces which are constantly trying to undermine the board, and development of a nation-wide educational program for the complete organization of farmers on a co-operative basis.

* * *

William F. Schilling has been reappointed as dairy member of the Farm Board, for a term of six years. The vacancies created by the resignations of Charles C. Teague, representing the fruit and vegetable industries and serving as vice-chairman of the board, and Samuel R. McKelvie, grain member, have not yet been filled.

TEN-YEAR PROGRAM OF PREDATORY-ANIMAL CONTROL

CO-OPERATIVE CONTROL OF PREDATORY ANIMALS and rodents has hitherto been dependent upon annual appropriations. Through the ten-year program approved by the last Congress, the work has now been put on a long-term basis, and appropriations of \$1,000,000 annually have been authorized. The increased appropriations, however, cannot become available until July 1, 1932, as Congress adjourned before the funds could be voted.

On federal lands the program contemplates continued co-operation by the Biological Survey with the Forest Service, the Indian Service, and other agencies. The national forests include more than 16,000,000 acres infested with rodents, principally prairie-dogs and ground-squirrels. It is estimated that prairie-dogs destroy from 20 to 80 per cent of the succulent forage grasses near their towns. The ten-year program plans the eradication of these pests where they are seriously interfering with live stock.

Coyotes, too, breed in the national forests and on the public domain. Control operations have been limited by current appropriations. The ten-year program contemplates adequate control, so as to reduce to the minimum the infestation of adjacent stock-grazing areas. At present, satisfactory control of the large predators on live-stock ranges is not possible.

The Biological Survey strives to make clear that the established policy of the bureau in this economic field is one of control rather than complete eradication of any species.

"The Survey," as Stanley P. Young, in charge of the bureau's Division of Predatory-Animal and Rodent Control, said recently, "is not embarked upon a general extermination program, but, with every proper consideration for conservation interests, it has as its objective in this field the adequate local control of injurious mammals. Only by such control can the burdensome losses suffered by farmers and stock-raisers be reduced to the minimum, and beneficial forms of wild life protected from undue destruction by their natural enemies. Though this policy in some cases may mean local extirpation of harmful forms, it will not result in the complete eradication of any species that adds interest to the wild, when far removed from industrial operations."

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

ON JULY 1, 1931, THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL Engineering, authorized by act of the last Congress, began functioning. The bureau replaces the Division of Agricultural Engineering of the Bureau of Public Roads under the Department of Agriculture. The engineering work of the department deals with such matters as irrigation, drainage, soil-erosion control, farm mechanical equipment, and farm structures.

S. H. McCrory, who has been chief of the division, has been chosen to head the new bureau.

AGREEMENT NEAR ON ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY

IT IS THOUGHT THAT AN AGREEMENT FOR JOINT construction of the St. Lawrence waterway project by the United States and Canada will be reached before Congress convenes in December, according to an announcement given out by the State Department.

Henry J. Allen, former senator from Kansas, is expected to head the American waterway commission, with Senator Thomas J. Walsh, of Montana, and Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, of Michigan, as the other members.

"I am well pleased with THE PRODUCER, and think that it would benefit every stockman to subscribe to it."—S. S. SEARS, Hyannis, Neb.

OUR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

BY CHARLES E. BLAINE

Traffic Counsel, American National Live Stock Association

Formal Complaint Filed with Interstate Commerce Commission

NO. 24520—IN THE MATTER OF INCREASES IN Freight Rates and Charges: The petition of the railroads for a general increase of 15 per cent in rates and charges has been assigned the above docket number by the Interstate Commerce Commission. On June 18 the commission held a conference on the carriers' application, with a view to determining how the matter should be handled. It is expected that the commission will soon announce its conclusions, and that expedited handling of the subject will be given, as in previous advanced-rate proceedings. In the light of precedents established, disposition within sixty or ninety days would be expeditious. A large number of individuals, associations, and firms have filed protests against the proposed advance

with President Hoover and the commission. Communications addressed to the President are being referred to the commission for reply. Hearings on the petition will begin July 15 at Washington, but may be extended to other cities. Those who wish to offer evidence in opposition are requested to notify the commission before July 20.

Formal Cases Pending before Commission

No. 17000, Part 8—Cottonseed and Related Articles: The report of the examiners in this case has been made public. This was a nation-wide investigation by the commission under the Hoch-Smith Resolution, involving the rates, transit practices, and competitive relationships on cottonseed and its products. Seventy-three proceedings were consolidated with the general investigation. Hearings were held at various places jointly with representatives of certain state commissions, extending over a period of two years. The examiners recommend that the commission establish six territorial rate scales. Scale A, for Southwestern Territory, begins with a rate of 9 cents and ends with one of 104 cents for 2,600 miles. The rate at 500 miles is 44 cents per 100 pounds; at 1,000 miles it is 63 cents. Scale D, recommended for Western Trunk Line Territory, begins with a rate of 8 cents and ends at 2,000 miles with a rate of 82 cents. The rate at 500 miles is 39½ cents per 100 pounds; at 1,000 miles it is 57 cents. The Mountain-Pacific scale begins with a rate of 10 cents and ends with 110 cents for 2,600 miles. The rate at 500 miles is 53½ cents per 100 pounds; at 1,000 miles it is 72 cents. The sixth scale for application between points in the Southwest, on the one hand, and northern and southern California, Washington, Oregon, Ogden and Salt Lake City, on the other, is not in reality on a scale basis, but is a list of rates to representative key points. The commission's decision will not be issued until after exceptions and briefs have been received, and no doubt oral argument has been had.

No. 17000, Part 9—Western Live-Stock Rates: There is another strong, but well-founded, rumor to the effect that the commission's decision in this case will be forthcoming in the near future. One of the reasons for this assertion is based on the recent conference of the commission with the committee of co-operating state commissioners with their traffic experts. Possibly the decision may be rendered before the commission's vacation period in August or September.

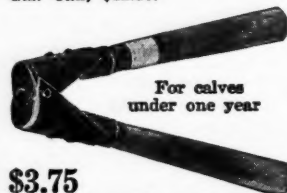
Freight Bureau Dockets

Southwestern Lines Docket No. 23167—Bedding of Live Stock in Cars: This docket proposes to add a new rule, reading substantially as follows: "Cars which are to be loaded with hogs, sheep, or goats must not be bedded with cinders." The present rules permit the use of cinders for bedding. Packers objected to the use of cinders for the bedding of hogs, particularly as they claim the hogs eat the cinders and produce material injury to themselves.

Western Trunk Lines Docket No. 6350: The committee

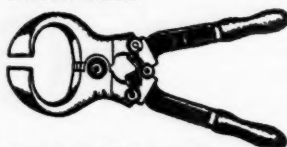


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has approved this docket, under which the southwestern lines will add a new rule to their tariffs providing for the free transportation to destination and return of an attendant on one car of live stock for distances of 200 miles or less, with the further restriction that the new rule is to expire one year from its effective date.

Western Trunk Lines Docket No. 4541-E—Live Stock, Mixed Carloads, between Points in Western Trunk Line Territory: This docket proposes to allow one stop in transit of live-stock shipments to complete loading, without charge; also, to revise the mixed carload rule now applicable so as to provide that the sheep rates and minimum weights will apply on mixed carloads of cattle, calves, hogs, and sheep.

New Tariffs Filed

Johanson's I. C. C. No. 2294, canceling No. 2106, effective July 6, 1931, is a new tariff on cattle from stations in Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Tennessee, and Wyoming to Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

C. & N. W. I. C. C. No. 10119, canceling No. 9990, is a new tariff, effective June 25, naming rates on cattle and sheep from stations on the C. & N. W. Ry. in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming to Chicago and South Omaha.

Miscellaneous

Due to the Supreme Court's decision in No. 563, Great Northern Railway Company v. Delmar Company, the commission, in a memorandum to the public recently issued, directs the carriers as soon as possible to revise their tariffs so as to show specifically the routes over which their rates will apply. Heretofore the commission has held that, where a tariff does not specify routing, the rates will apply via all available reasonable routes composed of lines parties to such tariffs. This principle had become rather well established, and had been followed by the commission and courts for many years past. However, in the case referred to, the United States Supreme Court reversed the long-standing principle of the commission and held that rates would not apply by a more indirect route if in so doing fourth-section departures were created.

WESTERN GRAIN RATES REDUCED

THE TEMPORARY INJUNCTION RESTRAINING THE Interstate Commerce Commission from putting into effect its order lowering freight rates on grain in Western Trunk Line Territory was dissolved by the United States District Court at Chicago on June 30. The new rates are now in force, and will remain effective pending final settlement of the case.

By this action, rates on wheat from Colorado and other points in the intermountain area to the principal market centers will be reduced from 5 to 10 cents per 100 pounds.

REDUCED DROUGHT RATES

LATE IN JUNE, FOUR NORTHWESTERN RAILROADS—the Great Northern, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie, and the Northern Pacific—received permission from the Interstate Commerce Commission to lower their live-stock freight rates, so that stock can be moved from the drought-stricken regions to places where feed and water are available. Conditions in eastern Montana and western North and South Dakota are reported to be critical.

Low round-trip rates on cattle and sheep over the lines of

the Southern Pacific have been ordered by the Nevada Public Service Commission, in a decision written by Chairman Shaughnessy. Reductions, the purpose of which is to assist stockmen who must remove their herds from eastern to western Nevada for feed, and later back again, will average approximately 35 per cent and remain in force for eighteen months beginning July 15.

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN TEXAS GRASSERS FLOODED THE MARKET

IN THE JUNE PRODUCER, W. T. ANGLE, MANAGER of the Producers' Commission Association at Kansas City, criticizes a passage in the market letter of James E. Poole in our May issue. Mr. Poole had written:

"A heavy April run of south Texas grassers did the trade no good. They came in a mob and were fat, living up to their reputation as price-breakers. The product filled an urgent need for low-grade beef, affecting adversely such steers as had previously been realizing \$7 to \$7.75 per cwt., which broke 75 cents generally, and in cases more. . . . At least they are out of the way, and, having gone into the national maw, will not figure again in the visible beef supply."

This, says Mr. Angle, is wrong in two particulars. Not only had more than one-half of Texas grass steers not been shipped up to the date Mr. Poole wrote (May 1), but since the beginning of the movement of these steers they had declined less than good and choice grain-fed steers in the same period. In other words, they had *not* depressed the market.

A partial explanation of this divergence of opinion may be found in an article written by Mr. Poole for the *American Hereford Journal* and published in the May 15 number. Here Mr. Poole explains:

"South Texas grass cattle . . . got down so low in price late in April that a considerable portion of the primary movement from that source was switched from the markets to Kansas and Oklahoma pastures. Simultaneously the fat-cattle market developed buoyancy, despite liberal supplies, improvement being most pronounced in the cheaper grades selling from \$7.25 down, which had been previously hit hard by Texas competition."

This, at least, would seem to take care of the price-hammering influence of the Texans, apparently leaving the proportion of arrivals by the first of May still in dispute.

German Wheat Prices

An agreement has been reached between the German government and the various political parties for an equalization of prices on domestic and foreign wheat. Domestic wheat is at present quoted at 300 marks a ton, the world price is about 100 marks, and the import duty 250 marks. It is proposed to grant a refund to millers of 50 marks a ton on all foreign wheat they use.

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THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN JUNE

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., July 1, 1931.

WHENEVER, IN THE COURSE OF COMMODITY-marketing events, the "hold back" slogan is sounded, the stage is automatically set for trouble. That it is impossible to boost values by accumulating, where the commodity is in continuous production, is obviously fallacious. Cattle trade has afforded a convincing demonstration of this truism recently. By holding 'em back during the early part of June, it was possible to mark prices up \$1 to \$1.50 per cwt.; but when the inevitable accumulation reported for action, the resultant bloom promptly disappeared. No attempt was made to arrest the hog movement, as the country was not excessively supplied with porcine stock, and, as current marketing of lambs was seasonal, artificial conditions did not develop here. Such vicissitude as occurred in live-mutton circles was due mainly to an avalanche from Texas, which also meant cutting loose an accumulation that fairly engulfed the dressed market. Fat sheep dropped to what veterans in the trade assert was the lowest level in half a century, which automatically cut off supply, even Texas being forced to quit loading when net returns did not equal marketing expense.

Heavy Steer Mainly Responsible for Price Collapse

About the time moratorium elixir was exerting a boosting influence on security prices, the cattle market acquired another acute case of prolapsus. That chronic and persistent offender in the sphere of production—the feeder with an obsession to handle heavy steers—was mainly responsible; hot weather was an added aggravation, and there were other "too-numerous-to-mention" influences. At a moment when the market was apparently working to higher and more stable levels, a one-week excessive supply knocked the underpinning from under the fragile structure. Between Thursday, June 18, when the upturn reached its zenith, until Thursday, June 25, prices slumped anywhere from 50 cents to \$1.50 per cwt., reinstating the May nadir and wiping out every penny of the early-June gain. Light cattle withstood the battle creditably until the last round, when they joined the debacle, losing 50 to 75 cents per cwt., heavy cattle being off \$1 to \$1.50 meanwhile. However, light cattle could always be cashed with reasonable celerity, while buyers could not be induced even to look into a pen of heavy steers. Discussion of this phase of the industry appears useless, the indisputable fact being that the trade no longer needs many bullocks in excess of 1,200 pounds, and could get along without hardship if that type was wholly eliminated.

Weighty Cattle Taken under Protest

What happened late in June dispelled any illusion that the summer supply of heavy cattle would run out. Everybody in the trade knew where they could be had, and holders were with difficulty restrained from ordering cars. Not only 1,400- to 1,600-pound bullocks, but the 1,700- to 1,800-pound kind, showed up in profusion—thick, fat, high-dressing, and otherwise desirable according to beef-trade standards of twenty-five years back, but doubtful property based on present require-

ments. Ever and anon a load of "elephants" weighing a ton or more drifted in, to provoke buyers' profanity, and eliciting similar complaint from unfortunate owners, solely responsible for the predicament in which they found themselves. A few big bullocks in the 1,400-pound class were eligible to \$8, but to do it they had to be good; otherwise the price flirted with the figure "seven," thousands of fat steers, good enough for any trade, selling at \$7 to \$7.50. Whenever a load of mastodon cattle reported, it was necessary to call up Boston on the 'phone to ascertain if a place could be found for the product, Swift invariably being the sole bidder. Such cattle worked down to a \$6.25 to \$6.50 basis, and even then were taken under protest.

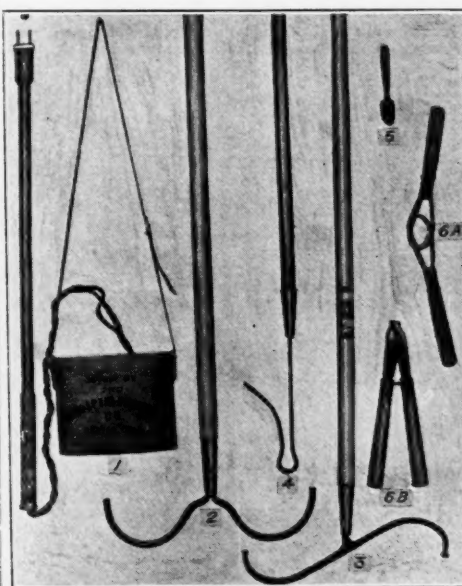
Yearlings in Healthy Demand

With a score or more of buyers in quest of light cattle and yearlings, but with rarely more than three, frequently only two, willing to bid on heavies, the relatively healthy position of the former needs no explaining. The June top never passed \$8.90, and at the crest of the rise the 1,400-pound kind stopped at \$8.50, few beating \$8.25. Yearling heifers found an \$8.50 top, and were prime favorites all through. Something light, and preferably cheap, was the buyer's slogan, and the lower cattle could be priced, the more easily could the buyer be interested. As a result, the entire crop of yearlings and cheaper light steers was cleaned up each day before a bid was put on a load of heavy cattle. Frequently the latter were carried a whole week, and the moment supply swelled it was necessary to carry them over the week-end.

Excessive Fat a Handicap

What exasperated feeders was either a narrow spread between "monkeys" and fat steers, or what amounted to a parity. Bullocks costing 8 to 9 cents when laid in last fall, and fed sumptuously meanwhile, if weighing 1,400 pounds up, had to be content with \$7 to \$7.50, while the 5-cent kind when put on feed realized the same money per pound; weight deficiency, lack of excessive fat, and salability of the beef nullifying quality and superior yields. With fat difficult to sell

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at 2 cents per pound, retailers were naturally averse to throwing it into the barrel, customers insisting on close trimming, and such tallow as stopped at the abattoir was not good property. At a juncture when the whole commercial world is staggering under a burden of fats, edible and otherwise, nature loaded down the current crop of cattle with a load of grease that made the product difficult to move. For the first time in trade history, killers complained of excessively fat yearlings, nullifying the theory that a disposition to grow made this condition in young cattle impossible. The weight fad—if that expression is permissible—went to the extent of creating discrimination against everything wearing a hide, if exceeding 1,100 pounds. Even the 1,000-pound yearling, unless choice, was handicapped, and when a load of heifers exceeded 800 pounds the seal of killers' disapproval was placed on them, preference being shown for weights below 700 pounds. Similarly, fat kosher cows weighing 1,200 to 1,400 pounds were the underdogs of the market, light dairy cows getting preference. Nothing with weight appealed to killers save rubbery old bologna bulls.

Killers Get Most of Light Cattle

But for the spurt during the first half of the month, and culminating in the hot market of the third week, the case of commercial cattle might be considered hopeless; but that movement demonstrated that there exists a line of demarkation between saturation and capability to absorb the product. At no time did this saturation develop in the case of light-weight beef, especially yearling product, demonstrating conclusively that the big steer was solely responsible for what happened. Feeders got few light cattle, as killers were always first and highest in the bidding for anything capable of hanging up a decent carcass. Quality, where weight was lacking, received decent treatment at buyers' hands, but in combination with heft and fat was taken for a ride.

Short Crop of Finished Hogs

Killers ran into a short crop of finished hogs weighing 250 pounds and down late in June, whereupon the spread widened. When light hogs were worth \$7.50 late in the month, good heavy butchers had to sell at \$6.50, and overweight packing sows were bought as low as \$4.25 per cwt. In the case of

sows, weight accumulation cannot be avoided, but running barrows into the 300-pound stage is sheer idiocy. Lard has accumulated, and packers have enough cured and frozen meats in their cellars to satisfy any possible demand, foreign or domestic, pending crashing of the market gates by the spring pig crop, now maturing with maximum celerity under probably the most favorable physical conditions that ever existed. Whatever happens, there will be plenty of pork to go around, as the hog is, always has been, and probably always will be the Corn Belt farmer's "one best bet." Washington statisticians figure the spring pig crop 2.5 per cent in excess of that of 1930; but, if trade scouts deserve credence, that does not half tell the story. All that is now worrying packers is unloading their accumulation of meats and lard without incurring inventory losses—a prospect, remote or otherwise, that has affected adversely the value of their securities.

Sheep Trade Darkest Spot on Market Map

Saddest of all is the June story of sheep and lamb trade. Texas continued piling yearlings and sheep into the hopper at Fort Worth, overloading the dressed market with mediocre product. Southern lambs moved freely, and the native or farm-grown crop butted into the market arena in price-demoralizing fashion. After a somewhat promising start, spring lambs selling at \$10 to \$10.60, and old-croppers at \$8 to \$8.60, prices continued the cracking process, until springers were down to \$7.75 to \$8.25, and the residue of the 1930 crop, now yearlings, sold anywhere from \$5 to \$6.50. Fat sheep almost reached the vanishing stage, fat ewes selling at \$1 to \$1.75 per cwt. when it was possible to move them, market men advising the country to convert them into hog feed. Feeders' losses on late winter lamb or yearling feeding were enormous. Instead of a bare spot in supply developing, woolled stock came from all points of the compass, direct receipts from other markets at Chicago crippling competition somewhat seriously by keeping one packer out of the trade much of the time. The heavy June Texas run was actually a calamity, although late in the month it tapered off, whereupon the market developed a somewhat improved undertone.

MARKET PROSPECTS

BY JAMES E. POOLE

Cattle

INTELLIGENT SPECULATION CONCERNING THE course of live-stock price events during the final half of 1931 is as absurd as impossible. Practically all the prognosticating ventured on the first half of the year went wrong. All the trade sign-posts are down, and there is nothing relative to past performance deserving consideration. Live-stock trade, in common with finance, commerce, and industry, is merely floundering in a bog of uncertainty. Final emergence must be left to conjecture. That it is inevitable will not be disputed. *When* is the problem.

Meats are going into consumption with reasonable celerity. Not a single pound of beef, pork, or lamb is being consigned to the rendering-tank. A temporary excess beef supply can be corned or sent to the boner; such pork as does not go into fresh-meat channels is consigned to the freezer; and, by resorting to week-end distress sales, lamb has been cleared without resort to cold storage. Reduce supply of either species even temporarily, and prices promptly react; but production of beef, pork, lamb, and mutton is always abreast of consumptive needs. Current live-stock prices are down to levels suggestive

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of stability, and doubtless would be on that basis if sales resistance, due to an unfortunate, but not irremediable, industrial situation, did not exist. Propagandistic effort to convince consumers that meat prices at retail are back to pre-war levels fails to get credence or stimulate consumption, because the average consumer knows better. Confounding wholesale with retail cost, deliberately or otherwise, is wrong. Wholesale meat cost is down; retail prices have followed to some, but not to the full, extent, for obvious reasons—mainly maintenance of distribution costs, principally rent and wages.

Beef trade is impatiently awaiting reduction of the mass of overweight product. This is not exactly unmerchantable, but its character creates sales resistance. In consuming circles it is intensely and increasingly unpopular, regardless of quality. Criticism of consumers for sidestepping such product is illogical—the fault lies with those who make it. Had 50 per cent of the steers weighing 1,200 to 1,400 pounds marketed in May and June been transferred to the 900- to 1,100-pound class, and those weighing upward of 1,400 pounds been eliminated entirely, all interested would have profited. Big cattle have been responsible for much of the loss sustained by feeders during the past three months—loss that could have been avoided had discretion been used. The resultant mass of unpopular product has played havoc with the entire distributive arm of the trade. In the scheme of beef-making there is no longer a place for any considerable number of aged cattle. Eliminate them entirely, and no hardship would accrue.

The statistical position of the cattle industry is far from discouraging; in fact, it furnishes ample reason for optimism. Slaughter is steadily falling, accounting for diminishing per-capita beef consumption. Low prices of dairy products have not checked production or curtailed the territory occupied by the dairy breeds, and certainly there has been no perceptible increase in the commercial cow herds of the western breeding-grounds. Should industrial activity revive, the long-advertised beef shortage might develop, although rising costs have a confirmed habit of checking demand so promptly and effectively as to jar the shortage theory. Even at such lofty prices as have ruled for several years past, there is a reliable outlet for a certain tonnage of beef—good, bad, and indifferent; the type that happens to be in shortest supply at the moment getting preference. What will happen when supply character changes is arousing interest. Up to July, grass beef was not a factor, so far as steers were concerned; but a time will come when Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota will no longer be able to fill such markets as Chicago, Omaha, and Sioux City with weighty, overdone steers, and simultaneously grass-cattle gathering will get under way, necessitating price revision. Light cattle now going to killers at anywhere from \$4.50 to \$7.50 per cwt. are low enough when demand for such product is reckoned with, while heavy bullocks selling at \$6.50 to \$7.50 are relatively low and seriously out of line. Shift 25 per cent of the weekly fat-cattle supply from the unpopular side of the demarkation weight line to the other, and the price situation would change overnight. This is what is likely to happen, but not while a 50-cent advance in heavy bullocks fills the market of the following week to the overflow stage with that type.

Hogs

An ample pig crop is in process of development. Good light hogs will probably be scarce—at least in a relative sense—this side of December; but there will be plenty of lard-yielding sows, and that commodity is not in good repute. Along in August the packing-sow run will wear itself out, but September will develop a free movement of new-crop shotes, so that substantially higher hog prices are improbable. A 5-cent

hog scare is in circulation, and anything may happen these days; so that, if shotes can be cashed at \$7 or better in September, many will grab the money. Packer financial interests are admonishing operating officials to keep cost of raw material down, and they will follow instructions even if the effort bursts a suspender. The porcine species is notoriously prolific, and when pigs do as well as this season, packers are justified in expecting an ample supply of raw material. Winter hog-feeding will be largely determined by the outcome of the growing corn crop.

Sheep

Sheepmen are not exactly in a dilemma at this juncture. They have no alternative but to shoot lambs into the market. The new crop is big, and has no other destination. What to do with a fat sheep is actually a problem. Texas was under the necessity of suspending loading in June, as net returns did not pay freight bills. The admonition, "Raise more sheep," so lustily sounded during the recent period of high prices, has produced results of a disastrous nature. By the time the western crop has been gathered and farm-raised lambs wend their way to the shambles, the fact will be realized that present consumption is unequal to production, if that production is to be profitable.

FEEDER MARKET IN STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION

J. E. P.

FEEDERS HAVE RARELY BEEN SO SULKY AS right now. Every factor has been adverse to normal replacement demand—with one exception: feed and crop pros-

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National Live Stock Marketing Association

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pects. Barring a few localities, the whole farming area is full of grass; there will be an abundance of hay and other roughage; small-grain prospects are the best in years; and, if the corn-crop outcome is not far above normal, something unexpected must happen. To nullify—partly at least—this favorable set of conditions are a fat-cattle market that invites excoriation and suspicion, a badly mixed financial outlook, and a determination to await developments.

Banks cracked by the score during June. Chicago was the focal point, but alarm existed everywhere. Depositors became clamorous for money—a condition not conducive to make bankers ready to lend a willing ear to applicants for cattle-purchase loans. "Wait awhile!" has been the adamant attitude of the banker toward his cattle-minded customers; and, usually, the advice was easily taken. Of course, the man vowing never to feed another steer cannot always be taken seriously. In fact, when he is vociferous on the subject, he is usually on his way to the stocker alleys in quest of cattle. But after what May and June did to fat-cattle prices, lack of clamor for replacement cattle is far from illogical.

Nothing will stimulate buying more effectively than an advance in fat cattle that can be held, and a similar upturn in stocker prices. The average man, regardless of what he buys, keeps out of a falling market. Such demand as exists at present is for something light and cheap to eat grass. Feeders have been taking out little steers and heifers, costing anywhere from \$3 to \$6 per cwt., on the theory that the investment is low enough to make loss impossible, and that such cattle will be needed by killers after acquiring a beef-covering. Standard-bred stocker trade is in a state of virtual suspension.

Certainties are that when the feeding area again becomes cattle-minded a raft of steers will be taken on for replacement purposes. Easier money is in sight, as confidence in banking circles returns. At current prices of stock cattle, purchase money paper is excellent investment, and once savings-bank depositors are reassured there will be a market for cattle loans. The wealth of feed of all kinds to be garnered in the farming areas this year must be converted, as it has no cash outlet. Cattle must be utilized for the purpose, and when a buying movement starts it is likely to become at least a mild furore. Nature, in beneficent mood, is now setting the stage for that kind of a stocker market.

Farmer-feeders, who did fairly well with handling lambs during the season just closed, are too busy with crops to give the thin-lamb market even casual consideration, and commercial operators on an extensive scale, smarting under heavy final-feed losses by the June slump in yearlings, are endeavoring to collect their shattered thoughts. One operator on a somewhat extensive scale literally blew up during the June crash, and will probably disappear as a price-sustaining

factor in the feeding-lamb market. Contract feeding, which was the subject of as much laudation as the Soviet five-year plan up to April, did not live up to that advertisement later, and at this writing resembles another good thing gone wrong, so that feeders contemplating putting teeth in contracts, to the detriment of western breeders, have not a leg to stand on. All these wrinkles for getting breeders and feeders into the same boat appear to have a kink somewhere. Whatever policy feeders may adopt during the coming season, they are confronted with necessity for paying real money for thin lambs, even as the packer pays spot cash for the fat end. Feeding for the gain was a temporary expedient that did not work out according to Hoyle. Uncertainty as to bank status will deprive the draft of its usual purchasing power, and a telephone promise to pay will not be regarded as cash.

The common talk of the sheep-house is not suggestive of optimism concerning feeding-lamb prices. All through June packers took the thin ends of western lambs, putting some on feed for their own account. Thirty days hence the farmer-feeder may appear on the scene, but the great majority will not get into action until September and October.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES SHOWING RECEIPTS, SHIPMENTS, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-five markets for the month of May, 1931, compared with May, 1930, and for the five months ending May, 1931 and 1930:

RECEIPTS

	May		Five Months Ending May	
	1931	1930	1931	1930
Cattle*	1,027,199	984,215	5,019,734	5,158,188
Calves	523,964	533,044	2,493,856	2,515,117
Hogs	2,938,117	3,292,865	17,568,217	18,343,637
Sheep	2,810,256	2,334,218	11,781,527	10,420,847

TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	May		Five Months Ending May	
	1931	1930	1931	1930
Cattle*	408,824	408,052	2,055,417	2,206,212
Calves	152,534	161,096	726,040	725,228
Hogs	1,098,613	1,216,168	6,577,280	7,234,510
Sheep	1,352,868	1,092,243	5,493,080	4,524,644

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	May		Five Months Ending May	
	1931	1930	1931	1930
Cattle*	135,096	171,938	735,495	940,201
Calves	18,315	27,510	107,733	153,821
Hogs	32,613	46,521	180,825	256,395
Sheep	175,993	142,011	756,777	601,280

LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	May		Five Months Ending May	
	1931	1930	1931	1930
Cattle*	607,437	575,882	2,921,006	2,892,141
Calves	372,105	371,560	1,765,591	1,790,743
Hogs	1,840,851	2,084,198	10,985,935	11,110,149
Sheep	1,463,715	1,248,750	6,287,858	5,896,074

*Exclusive of calves.

†Including stockers and feeders.



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COMPARATIVE LIVE STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES SHOWING PRICES ON THE principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on July 1, 1931, compared with June 1, 1931, and July 1, 1930:

SLAUGHTER STEERS:	July 1, 1931	June 1, 1931	July 1, 1930
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.)	\$ 7.00- 8.50	\$ 7.25- 8.00	\$11.50-12.50
Good	6.25- 7.50	6.25- 7.50	10.00-11.75
Choice (900 to 1,100 lbs.)	7.75- 8.75	7.50- 8.00	11.25-12.00
Good	7.00- 8.00	6.75- 7.50	9.75-11.50
Medium (800 lbs. up)	5.75- 7.25	6.00- 7.25	8.50-10.25
FED YEARLING STEERS:			
Good to Choice	7.25- 8.75	6.15- 8.00	9.50-11.00
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice	6.50- 8.00	6.25- 7.50	9.25-10.75
COWS:			
Good to Choice	4.00- 5.25	4.00- 5.00	7.00- 9.00
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:			
Good to Choice (800 lbs. up)	5.50- 6.75	6.00- 7.00	8.00- 9.75
Common to Medium	4.00- 5.50	5.00- 6.00	6.00- 8.00
Good to Choice (800 lbs. down)	5.75- 7.00	6.00- 7.00	8.00- 9.75
Common to Medium	4.00- 5.75	4.75- 6.00	5.75- 8.00
HOGS:			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)	6.65- 7.15	5.90- 6.15	9.20- 9.45
LAMBS:			
Medium to Choice (92 lbs. down)	5.00- 7.65	8.00-10.50	8.75-11.25

WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED meats at Chicago on June 30, 1931, compared with June 1, 1931, and July 1, 1930, were as below (per 100 pounds):

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL			
STEERS (700 lbs. up):	June 30, 1931	June 1, 1931	July 1, 1930
Choice	\$11.00-12.00	\$11.50-13.00	\$16.00-17.50
Good	10.50-11.50	11.00-11.50	15.00-16.00
STEERS (550 to 700 lbs.):			
Choice	12.50-13.50	12.00-13.00	17.00-18.50
Good	11.00-12.00	11.00-12.00	15.00-17.00
YEARLING STEERS:			
Choice	13.00-14.50	12.00-13.50	17.00-19.00
Good	12.00-13.00	11.00-12.00	16.00-17.00
COWS:			
Good	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	12.00-13.00
VEALERS:			
Choice	13.00-15.00	13.00-14.00	17.00-18.00
Good	11.00-13.00	12.00-13.00	15.00-17.00

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON			
LAMBS (45 lbs. down):			
Choice	\$16.00-18.00	\$21.00-23.00	\$23.00-25.00
Good	13.00-16.00	18.00-21.00	21.00-23.00
EWES:			
Good	6.00- 8.00	7.00- 9.00	9.00-11.00

FRESH PORK CUTS			
LOINS:			
8-10 lb. average	\$17.00-20.00	\$15.00-18.00	\$19.00-22.00
10-12 lb. average	16.00-19.00	15.00-17.00	19.00-21.00

HIDE SITUATION MORE ENCOURAGING

J. E. P.

HIDE TRADE OCCASIONALLY MAKES A DISPLAY of strength, whereupon packers are able to add a fraction of a cent to the per-pound price. Late in June heavy native steers sold up to 11½ cents, heavy Texas steers to 10½ cents, and cows to 9½ cents. So confident were killers that they had the situation well in hand that July take-off was not offered. Independent packers were well sold up at fractionally higher prices, country hides showing decided firmness.

Viewed from all angles, the hide and leather prospect is more promising. Statistics covering shoe-manufacturing are

always belated, but are showing a substantial gain, indicating that shelf stocks have been whittled down and distress sales run their course. Basement "bargains" are already less prominent in department-store advertising.

Activity is detected both in domestic and in South American markets. The statistical position continues to respond with respect to both shoe production and wettings, which are running ahead of the corresponding period of 1930.

Interest centers on stocks in Hide Exchange certified warehouses, which are approximately 190,000 hides—an entirely new situation, as the exchange has heretofore had no appreciable stocks. Sixty to 70 per cent of the certified stocks are deliverable in September, the certificates expiring in December—the next active month traded in. Hides represented by expired certificates must be disposed of in the open market between September and December, so that the effect on the spot market is highly conjectural.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF STORAGE HOLDINGS OF frozen and cured meats, lard, creamery butter, and eggs on June 1, 1931, as compared with June 1, 1930, and average holdings on that date for the past five years (in pounds):

Commodity	June 1, 1931	June 1, 1930	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef	30,973,000	49,913,000	33,163,000
Cured beef*	18,196,000	21,643,000	20,653,000
Lamb and mutton	2,331,000	4,639,000	2,257,000
Frozen pork	244,778,000	176,851,000	210,415,000
Dry salt pork*	148,603,000	105,913,000	145,394,000
Pickled pork*	434,362,000	392,403,000	409,719,000
Miscellaneous	79,351,000	83,294,000	67,896,000
Totals	958,594,000	834,656,000	889,497,000
Lard	103,456,000	115,270,000	140,727,000
Butter	35,286,000	50,378,000	30,133,000
Frozen eggs	106,623,000	106,904,000	70,565,000
Eggs (cases)	7,881,000	2,178,000	8,050,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

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CATTLE**

**PERRY PARK
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WOOL CONSUMPTION EXPANDING— PRICES NOT

J. E. P.

WOOL SHOULD MOVE UP; ALSO MOVE OUT. Compared with the corresponding period of 1930, prices are down about 6 cents per pound, or sufficiently to put the commodity on an intrinsic-value basis. There is a distinct trend toward expanding consumption, but the fact that plenty of wool is available sticks out prominently. Varying contention that responsibility is due to restricted consumption or expanded production gets the trade nowhere. Activity at eastern concentration points recently has been accompanied by diminished buying interest in the West. Eastern markets are "soft," explainable by a disposition to bank money, which is not open to criticism, as the market has undoubtedly been hampered by an accumulation. Optimistic literature is voluminously in circulation, but the hopeful boys frequently become a collective nuisance.

Standard western clips have sold recently around 14 cents, against 22 cents for the same property last year, which affords an adequate idea of depreciation meanwhile. At this basis, the commodity should represent sound investment. The main idea now is to put the domestic market on a parity with foreign, plus the tariff. It has recently lacked 11 to 15 cents per pound, scoured basis, of being effective on domestic wools. Putting the domestic market on the desired parity would necessitate increases of 4 to 6 cents per pound in grease prices. This may be accomplished by another route—lowering foreign levels; in fact, the trend is in that direction. Foreign prices are sagging to the low level of last January, and, with our markets well supplied, this is not an optimistic sign. In fact, there is nothing distinctly optimistic in the outlook, except that domestic consumption is expanding somewhat. Receipts of the 1931 domestic clip at eastern concentration points have been heavier than last year, due to an earlier shearing season, which has not fortified the position of the holder, occurring during a dull period.

FEEDSTUFFS

COTTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL, F. O. B. DALLAS, Texas, on July 2 was priced at \$21.50. Hay prices at Kansas City on the same date were: Alfalfa—No. 1 extra leafy, \$14.50 to \$15; No. 2 extra leafy, \$13.50 to \$14; No. 1, \$12.50 to \$13.50; No. 2 leafy, \$11.50 to \$12; No. 2, \$10 to \$11; No. 3 leafy, \$9 to \$9.50; No. 3, \$8 to \$8.50; sample, \$5 to \$8; prairie—No. 1, \$9 to \$10; No. 2, \$8 to \$9; No. 3, \$6 to \$7.50; sample, \$4 to \$6; timothy—No. 1, \$10 to \$11; No. 2, \$9 to \$9.50; No. 3, \$8 to \$8.50; sample, \$7 to \$8; timothy-clover, mixed—No. 1, \$10 to \$11; No. 2, \$8.50 to \$9.50; No. 3, \$7 to \$8; clover—No. 1, \$8.50 to \$9; No. 2, \$7 to \$8.

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TRADE REVIEW

FOREIGN TRADE IN MAY

EXPORTS OF UNITED STATES PRODUCTS IN MAY were 4.6 per cent smaller than in April, 35.5 per cent below those of May, 1930, and the smallest since November, 1914. Imports fell off 2 per cent from the preceding month, were lower by 36 per cent than in May a year ago, and were the smallest since September, 1921. For the first five months of this year there has been a total shrinkage in the value of our foreign trade of \$1,200,000,000, compared with last year. The figures follow:

	May		Eleven Months Ending May	
	1931	1930	1931	1930
Exports.....	\$205,000,000	\$320,034,000	\$2,897,230,000	\$4,398,923,000
Imports.....	182,000,000	284,683,000	2,260,946,000	3,598,628,000
Excess of exports.	\$ 23,000,000	\$ 35,351,000	\$ 636,284,000	\$ 800,295,000

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS

EXPORTS OF MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS, AND ANIMAL FATS from the United States for the month of May and the five months ending May, 1931, as compared with the corresponding periods of the previous year, were as below (in pounds):

BEEF PRODUCTS

	May		Five Months Ending May	
	1931	1930	1931	1930
Beef, fresh.....	147,691	151,548	1,025,469	1,147,085
Beef, pickled.....	1,141,953	1,335,025	4,025,340	4,640,011
Beef, canned.....	178,279	120,146	708,818	989,257
Oleo oil.....	4,337,495	4,122,769	21,705,079	22,552,150
Totals.....	5,805,418	5,729,488	27,464,706	29,328,503

PORK PRODUCTS

	May		Five Months Ending May	
	1931	1930	1931	1930
Pork, fresh.....	458,899	1,608,412	4,130,870	10,141,677
Pork, pickled.....	1,167,597	3,919,822	7,081,103	14,857,543
Bacon.....	2,387,904	8,836,645	19,334,927	55,442,407
Cumberland sides.....	118,432	529,819	721,175	2,314,156
Hams and shoulders.....	9,969,383	13,881,593	37,717,879	55,784,060
Wiltshire sides.....	276,618	108	1,798,851
Sausage, canned.....	61,062	195,432	475,214	725,482
Lard.....	39,622,745	62,561,719	280,427,828	318,384,750
Lard compounds.....	159,659	209,542	681,698	1,118,720
Neutral lard.....	891,611	1,055,382	4,494,849	6,822,257
Totals.....	54,837,292	93,074,984	355,065,651	467,389,903

Western Canada Wants National Wheat Board

Representatives of the provincial governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba have called on Premier Bennett and other members of the Dominion cabinet with a request that a national wheat-marketing board be created. This, it is held, might mean the elimination of the Canadian wheat pools.

FOREIGN

ENGLISH LIVE-STOCK LETTER

BY JOSEPH RAYMOND

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

LONDON, June 15, 1931.

THE SATISFACTORY MAINTENANCE OF PRICES IN the meat markets of Great Britain during the last few months has been a matter for widespread comment, in view of the downward tendencies of other food markets. The plethora of meat imported about Easter brought with it a slump in the trade which looked threatening for all sections of meat-marketing. But when the price of New Zealand lamb reached the low level of 12 cents per pound, wholesale, in the principal markets, that cheapness stimulated such a universal demand, even in the poorer industrial districts suffering from general trade depression, that prices have since risen again to 25 per cent above the low limit reached. There are prospects of still higher values ahead, and of a comparative shortage in imported mutton, which figures largely in the national diet.

The large gap that always exists between home-killed lamb prices and the best Canterbury lamb arriving from New Zealand is one which, although not representing the difference in values of the meats in question, does reflect the difference in class of the trade affected. New Zealand lamb has become a standard article of diet among the middle and lower middle classes of Great Britain, and there seemed to be no limits to the advance of its volume consumed.

As stated above, food markets generally have been hurtling down in the past few months. Fat cattle are now only 19 per cent above the price-level of the base period—that is, 1911-13. Fat sheep, on the other hand, still remain at 40 per cent above the pre-war level. Bacon pigs are down to 21 per cent above, and porkers are 33 per cent above. Store cattle are priced at 25 per cent above the pre-war average, and dairy cows 24 per cent above. The resumption of live-cattle imports from Canada has become quite a prominent feature again, and it is remarked that the senders have been paying attention to quality in greater degree, so that a large proportion of the beasts arriving have been fit for marketing on landing.

Last month a consignment of cattle from Rhodesia was imported at Cardiff, and on immediate slaughter—owing to foot-and-mouth disease having broken out in the country of origin—they were reported most favorably upon in point of quality of the meat.

Mention is made in the newly issued report of the Food Investigation Board for the year 1930 of an important survey undertaken of the freezing, storage, and transport of New Zealand lamb. This was a scientific investigation asked for by the New Zealand Meat Producers' Board, in order to discover the nature and cause of the loss of "bloom" in lambs for export. The whole traffic, from the point of slaughter right up to the marketing of the meat in Great Britain, was surveyed by three leading investigators of the British Board of Food Investigation, and the conclusions, which are not given in the annual report above mentioned, are eagerly awaited by all the imported-meat trade. It is hoped that the very exhaustive inquiry by these expert scientists will do much to improve practice in the export-meat industry.

Considerable tension of feeling is still apparent in the

retailers' section of the British meat trade over what has been generally called "the menace of cartoned meat." The English butcher, who has been content enough in the past to make profits out of frozen meat bought by him in the carcass, or quarter, is terribly afraid that, when rapid-frozen cartoned meats arrive as a practical proposition, he will lose his prerogative as a dispenser of meat to the British public. For this reason he is putting up all the opposition he can to the new idea before it is established. The most he has agreed to do so far is to wait and watch in order to see if the importers of cartoned meats, when they arrive, attempt to find other retail outlets than the butchering trade. If they do, then the National Federation of Meat Traders' Associations threatens to act co-operatively against them.

The report is to hand of a very convincing trial of a sample consignment of miscellaneous rapid-frozen meats made from England to Australia recently, and tasted in comparison with fresh meats in Melbourne, with gratifying results. On December 16 last, some Scotch steak, English chops, brains, and kidneys were purchased at Smithfield, London, and put into cold store at a temperature of 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Later they were sent, packed with dry ice, to the Low Temperature Research Station at Cambridge, where they were cold-stored at zero, remaining there until March 6. They were then brought again to London, in dry ice, and shipped to Australia at a temperature of between zero and 5 degrees, arriving in Melbourne on April 13. A tasting test in comparison with local fresh produce was made by a committee, who could not distinguish the rapid-frozen samples from the local meats. In each case the much-traveled samples were declared to be similar to the fresh, and, in the case of the brains, the frozen sample was declared firmer and better than the fresh. In the case of the Scotch steak, without exception, every guest judged that the rapid-frozen steak was the local product, as it was the better of the two samples served.

Australia is watching the rapid-freezing system very closely, as it is felt that this up-to-date method of refrigeration will do much in the near future to overcome the great handicap under which she and other British Dominions in the Southern Hemisphere labor, in comparison with South America.

New Outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Britain

Severe outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease have occurred in England and Scotland, traced to cattle shipped over from Ireland. Drastic action has been taken by the government in forbidding the movement of live stock and in killing all affected animals. Importations from Ireland have been forbidden.

"Your paper is one of the best in the live-stock field, and I for one do not want to be without it."—T. L. STITH, Del Rio, Texas.

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

JUNE PIG SURVEY

The pig survey conducted by the Department of Agriculture as of June 1, 1931, indicates an increase of 2.5 per cent in the spring pig crop of this year over a year ago for the United States as a whole, and a sharp increase in the number of sows to farrow during the coming fall.

The increase shown in the number of pigs saved was 3.7 per cent for the Corn Belt and 15.8 per cent in the western states, while the south central states reported a decrease of 9.5 per cent, the north Atlantic section one of 8.6 per cent, and the south Atlantic section one of 1.5 per cent.

OLEOMARGARINE LEGISLATION

Supplementing our review in the June PRODUCER of oleomargarine legislation recently passed by the law-making bodies of the various states, we print below, from the *National Provisioner*, a summary of the chief provisions of the bills adopted:

California—Prohibits sale of yellow margarine.

Colorado—Sales tax of 15 cents a pound on oleomargarine containing less than 45 per cent of animal fats; licenses manufacturers and wholesalers. A peti-

tion has been filed for submitting law to referendum, which makes law inoperative until a vote can be had.

Idaho—Taxes yellow margarine 10 cents and uncolored margarine 5 cents a pound; prohibits purchase of margarine by public institutions.

Illinois—Limits use of margarine in public institutions.

Iowa—Taxes margarine 5 cents a pound.

Kansas—Prohibits use in state institutions.

Michigan—Licenses manufacturers and dealers, and prohibits use in state institutions.

Minnesota—Licenses dealers; prohibits sale of yellow margarine; taxes flavor in imitation of butter.

Montana—Increases license of wholesalers to \$500 a year and of retailers to \$150 a quarter; prohibits sale of colored margarine.

Nebraska—Prohibits use in state institutions; increases license to \$50 for wholesalers and \$5 for retailers; sales tax of 15 cents a pound on product not containing more than 50 per cent of animal fats produced in United States.

New Hampshire—Prohibits sale of yellow margarine.

New York—Prohibits sale of yellow margarine.

North Carolina—Licenses manufacturers \$100; wholesalers, \$50; hotels, etc., \$10; boarding-houses, \$5; prohibits sale of yellow margarine.

North Dakota—Sales tax of 10 cents a pound; prohibits sale of yellow margarine; forbids use in state institutions.

Ohio—Prohibits sale of yellow margarine.

Oklahoma—Licenses manufacturers and dealers; taxes margarine 10 cents a pound.

Oregon—Sales tax of 10 cents a pound; prohibits sale of yellow margarine.

South Dakota—Sales tax of 10 cents a pound; prohibits sale of yellow margarine.

Tennessee—Sales tax of 10 cents a pound; licenses all manufacturers and dealers.

Vermont—Prohibits sale of yellow margarine; requires signs in public dining-rooms.

Washington—Taxes margarine 15 cents a pound.

Wisconsin—Licenses manufacturers \$1,000; wholesalers, \$500; retailers, \$100 to \$400, according to volume of sales; hotels, \$100; boarding-houses, \$50.

Wyoming—Sale of yellow margarine prohibited; sales tax of 10 cents a pound on margarine containing less than 20 per cent animal fat.

All proposed bills failed in Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana,

Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, Utah, and West Virginia.

LOSSES CAUSED BY CATTLE WARTS PREVENTABLE

Common warts on cattle, though sometimes considered of minor importance, reduce the value of affected hides up to as much as 25 per cent, according to Leaflet 75-L, "Warts on Cattle," just issued by the Department of Agriculture. Warty hides, when tanned, have roughened and weak spots where the warts occurred on the skin, and the affected parts are considered worthless, we are told. Cattle-buyers, therefore, make discounts for warty animals purchased in the markets.

Experiments show that the growths are infectious, and under ordinary conditions are probably spread when the infective material comes in contact with the injured skin of healthy cattle. Preventive measures include the removal of all warty cattle from the herd, and the cleaning and disinfecting of exposed pens, rubbing posts, and other equipment. Small warts may be removed by clipping them off with sterile scissors, or tying a sterile thread tightly around the wart near the base. The stumps remaining after the warts are removed should be touched with glacial acetic acid or tincture of iodine. The removal of large warts requires the attention of a veterinary surgeon.

CHICAGO'S LIVE-STOCK SUPPLY AREA

In analyzing the factors that determine the supply area of the central live-stock market of the United States, Edward A. Duddy, associate professor of marketing at the University of Chicago, and David A. Revzan, research assistant, have worked out an interesting problem in their recently published book, "The Supply Area of the Chicago Live Stock Market."

Most stockmen are familiar, in a general way, with the big western fall movement of grass-fed cattle, the heavy December-to-February shipments from Corn Belt fattening areas, the high and low points of the movement of calves, and range-sheep and early-lamb marketings; but should they have occasion to use more definite information as to the types of these movements, seasonal competition of markets, or exact supply areas, many of them would likely find their knowledge limited. For the period 1923-29 this great live-stock movement, in all its ramifications, is comprehensively chronicled in this work.

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COMPARATIVE QUALITY OF MEAT

During the period 1925 to 1927 the Department of Agriculture, aided by the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, conducted a series of experiments to determine the factors that influence the quality and palatability of meat. These experiments, part of a nation-wide co-operative project, were made in Kentucky pastures with steers representing the predominating beef breeds. Technical Bulletin No. 217, entitled "Beef Production and Quality as Affected by Grade of Steer and Feeding Grain Supplement on Grass," relates the history of these studies.

Quality and palatability of the meat from animals fed exclusively on grass is compared with that of cattle fed grain while on pastures. It is shown that "good cattle fed a grain supplement on grass graded good both as feeders and slaughter cattle," while "the same grade fed on grass alone graded in the middle of good as feeders and at the bottom of good as slaughter cattle."

The pamphlet (price, 15 cents) is furnished by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

DEVELOPING HYBRIDS

Science is constantly at work helping the stockman, not only in improving the quality of his animals, but in developing new types to meet special climatic conditions or the needs of any particular group of the population. Some of these experiments were recently described by Dr. W. H. Evans, acting chief of the Office of Experiment Stations in the Department of Agriculture.

"Crosses between the yak and the Galloway cow, the result of which has been named the 'galoyak,' and between Galloway and Holstein cows, have been made by the department's experiment station in Alaska," said Dr. Evans. "The rigors of the Alaskan climate made living difficult for the cow in Alaska, so a hardier type was sought.

"The yak—a native of the cold, high-altitude regions of Asia—was bred to a Galloway cow, a beef type rather than a milk animal. The hybrid has most of the characteristics of the yak, as far as appearance and habits are concerned, but its meat has been found to compare favorably with the best grades of beef, having none of the 'wild,' racy taste of the flesh of wild animals.

"The yaks used in the experiment were able to subsist very well during the winter on such forage as they could dig out of the snow, plus a little wheat straw, and the hybrid was found to be just

about as hardy, preferring the society of the yaks rather than that of the cows, and living in much the same manner.

"Holstein cattle were found to be insufficiently hardy to range satisfactorily in the winter in Alaska, but their quality of heavy milk production was wanted. Holsteins, therefore, were bred to Galloway cows, which are themselves a very hardy breed. The resulting hybrids retained practically all the hardness of the Galloways, and at the same time actually produced more milk per cow and a higher butter-fat content than their heavy-producing Holstein ancestors. They have consistently maintained this increase in production over the Holsteins.

"A live-stock man not connected with the department once bred American buffaloes to yaks, obtaining what he called a 'yakalo,' and the department understands that this experiment is being continued in Canada, but it is not advised of the outcome."

CATTLE AND SHEEP HAVE DIFFERENT TASTES

Grazing animals have their whims and often display "choosy" appetites, according to observers on the national forest ranges in the Southwest. Understanding the preferences of live stock is important to stockmen and foresters in keeping up the quality of the range and in getting the most out of grazing a given area.

A recent inspection of two cattle allotments revealed that two patches of bluestem of varying size and in almost pure stands were heavily grazed, while surrounding areas of grama grass were lightly used. Sheep on an adjoining allotment showed a different appetite, scarcely touching the bluestem, while grazing heavily on the grama.

By choosing the right kind of live stock for the range, regulating the number of animals to keep them from overgrazing the forage, and watering and salting them to aid in better distribution over all the range area, the ranges are protected from depletion and show maximum carrying capacity.

Turn About is Fair Play.—During a grouse hunt two sportsmen were potting the birds from butts situated very close together.

Suddenly a red face showed over the top of one butt, and the occupant said: "Curse you, sir! You almost hit my wife just now."

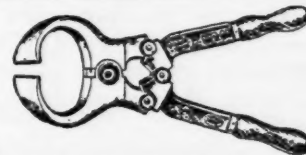
"Did I?" said the man, aghast. "I'm terribly sorry. Er—have a shot at mine over there!"—Stevens Stone Mill.

This Ought to Hold Her.—It was on a Massachusetts Avenue car that a buxom woman was standing in the aisle, hanging to a strap. In front of her sat a rather cantankerous-looking man, apparently absorbed in a newspaper. The car stopped suddenly, and she trod sharply on his foot. He looked up over the top of his paper with anything but a happy expression.

"Madame," he said, "will you please get off my foot?"

"Put your foot where it belongs," she replied shortly.

"Don't tempt me," he countered.—Voo Doo.



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ROUND THE RANGE

RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK REPORT FOR JUNE

Feed on the ranges at the beginning of June varied from fair to good, according to the Division of Crop and Live Stock Estimates. Grass and water conditions were generally favorable in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, Colorado, western Kansas, and most of Wyoming. In Montana, the western Dakotas, western Nebraska, and north-eastern Wyoming, lack of moisture had reduced feed, and rain was badly needed. West of the Continental Divide, ranges were getting dry. In Nevada and eastern Oregon, water was running low. In Utah there was a shortage of snow in the mountains. Feed prospects in California were poor.

Cattle generally were in good condition, with a large calf crop, except in Texas, where it fell below that of last

year. Sheep, too, were in fine flesh, and late range lambing had resulted in a good crop.

CATTLE ON PASTURE IN KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

Spring movement of cattle to pastures in the Bluestem (Flint Hills) section of Kansas and the Osage country of Oklahoma is estimated by the Department of Agriculture to be 18 per cent less than last year. Kansas received 250,000 head between January 1 and May 31, compared with 301,000 a year ago, the movement being the smallest since 1924. Only 80 to 85 per cent of the pastures are filled. Grass and stock water are plentiful. Osage pastures carried 136,000 cattle on June 1, as against 170,000 on the same date in 1930. Recent rains have provided ample moisture, and pastures are in excellent condition.

RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK CONDITIONS California

I have been in the stock business for forty years, and we are now having the worst year of them all for feed and water.—T. M. HARRIS, Salinas.

Conditions in this vicinity are below normal for both feed and water. Late rains did considerable damage to hay and feed. With supplemental feeding, most of the cattle will go to market in fairly good shape.—H. J. PFEIFFER, Hollister.

Colorado

Cattle, when turned out this spring, were in better flesh than ordinarily. Wet storms in May made ample spring feed. Streams here in Middle Park are holding up well. With plenty of water for another three weeks, there will be a good hay crop.—LOUIS J. WARD, Troublesome.

Montana

Very dry in this section.—E. B. RYAN, Billings.

We have had a couple of rains that have helped out the range wonderfully.—M. W. SNIDER, Decker.

Recent rains have greatly relieved water and range conditions in the Upper Powder River country. Eastern Montana and north of the Yellowstone River is very dry—range poor and water scarce. With plenty of rainfall from now on, Montana can still come out in good shape.—G. S. GUPTON, Miles City.

Ranges are good, with a lot of grass, but hay crops are going to be short. Cattle wintered well. I feel lucky that I live in the mountains, for the lower lands are drying out—no water or feed of any kind. Cattle cannot be raised at present low prices. With our present range condition, 1931 will be a hard year, but there are better ones coming.—F. E. RITTLE, Wolf Creek.

Nebraska

Conditions here have been dry all spring, making pasture short. The hay crop will likewise be short. Cattle are not in so good condition as usual for this time of year. There has been no contracting of calves as yet, though we are expecting around \$30 or \$35 for the best grade of steer calves if there is a good corn crop in the Corn Belt.—G. B. VAN METER, Tryon.

New Mexico

Range and live-stock conditions this spring have been the best in many years in southern New Mexico. Depressed prices are the only fly in the ointment, but cattlemen are not panicky over present market conditions, as they realize that their industry is in a favorable position, owing to no great overproduction. In spite of the slump and serious financial conditions, there have been many high-class bulls shipped into this country the past few months, which indicates confidence. Nearly every sheepman in the country is "rarin'" to get into the cow business, and if all who want to make the change could make it, there would soon be an overproduction of cattle, and sheep prices would soar.—H. L. PARKS, Lake Valley.

There are a few nibbles in both cattle and sheep-buying. Buyers are still trying to hammer stock lower, it seems. Conditions are good here, as far as range is concerned, and so far everyone is holding on. Some of us have to lighten our range, as we are overstocked, but as yet there has been very little sacrificing.—AMOS D. JONES, Tatum.

Texas

Range in this part of the state is in fine shape. We have had good rains all winter and spring.—T. L. STITH, Del Rio.

Range for live stock could not be any better, but there is not much demand for it. No money here in circulation, which makes all business unpleasant.—CHARLES KOTHMANN, Art.

Canada

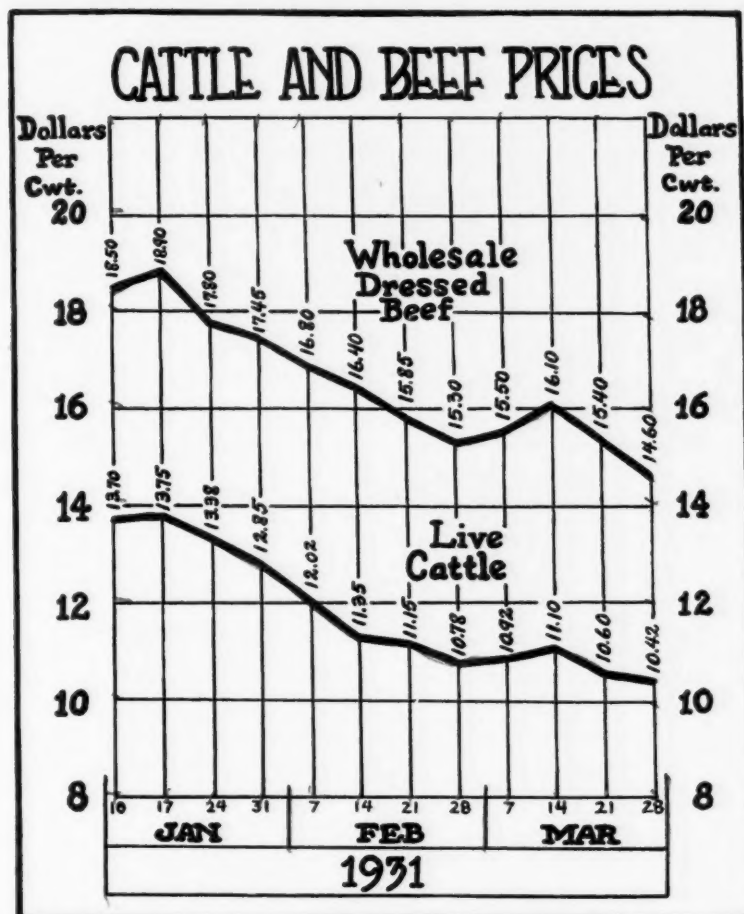
Very dry in this section, although grass is better than it was at this time last year. Rain is needed very badly. Water for irrigation is shorter than it has been for many years, owing to no snow having fallen last winter. Lakes on the range are lower than ever. Where water is available, alfalfa is ahead of last year. Cattle wintered splendidly, and the calf crop looks as though it was going to be about average.—A. W. McMORRAN, Kamloops, British Columbia.

Fussy Old Lady—"Are you quite positive this train is going to Muscatine?"

Conductor (wearily)—"Well, if it isn't, lady, I'm in a worse mess than you are."—Capper's Weekly.

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Price Fluctuations

Prices of meats and by-products (such as hides, lamb pelts, tallow, etc.) determine prices of live stock. Packer salesmen make every effort to get highest prices, but they can get only that price at which the meat will move into consumption. This is the market price.

Day to day and week to week, fluctuations in receipts of live stock cause fluctuations in the supply of meats. This in turn causes fluctuations in livestock prices.

Ordinarily the amount of money that consumers have to spend for meats does not vary greatly from day to day or week to week. When it does, in times of unemployment, as at present, the tendency of

meat and livestock prices is downward.

This effect on the prices of meats and live stock is illustrated in the average weekly prices of cattle and *wholesale* prices of the corresponding grades of beef at Chicago shown in the accompanying chart. They were taken from reports of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The fluctuating prices of hides and other by-products also have an effect but space does not permit their discussion here. The money from beef represents 80 to 90 per cent of the total money the packer receives for the meat and by-products of cattle, hence it is the largest single product that affects the price of the live animal.

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